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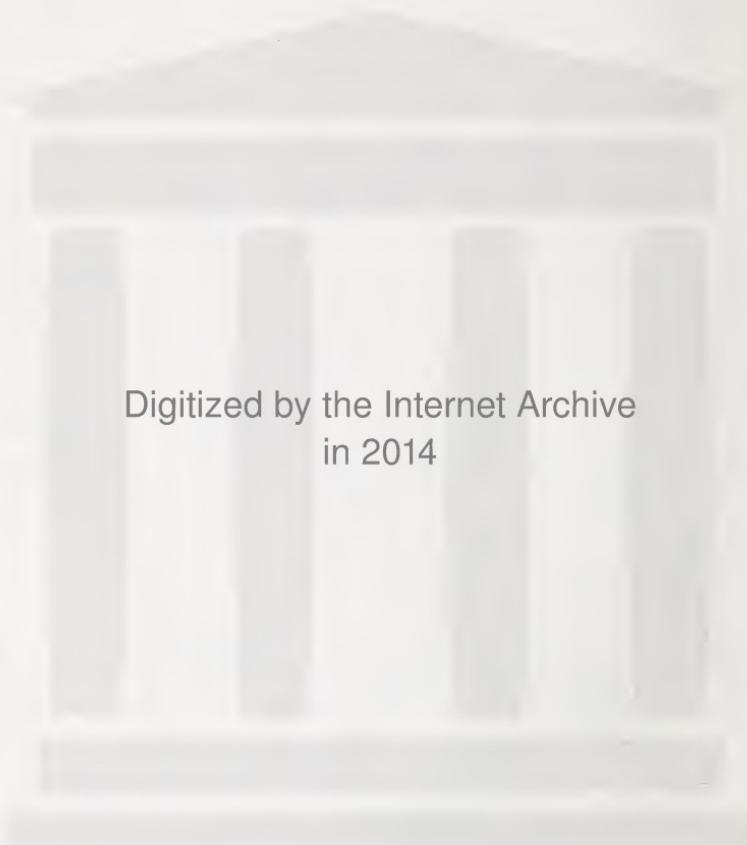
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PUBLICATIONS OF THE DUGDALE SOCIETY

Under the General Editorship of FREDERICK C. WELLSTOOD, M.A.

VOL. I

THE DUGDALE SOCIETY

President

The Right Hon. The EARL OF DENBIGH AND DESMOND, C.V.O

General Editor and Hon. Secretary

FREDERICK C. WELLSTOOD, M.A.

THE Dugdale Society was formed in January 1920, its objects being to promote and foster the study of Warwickshire history, topography, and archaeology, by printing in each year such records and other manuscript materials as the financial condition of the Society will allow.

The present volume (the first publication of the Society) is in respect of the year 1920, and the General Editor regrets the delay in its issue, which has been due to unforeseen initial difficulties. The second volume is well in hand and it is confidently hoped will be issued to members within the current year. It will contain a further selection of Stratford-upon-Avon records, carrying the work on to about the year 1580, and it is estimated that the work will be completed in four volumes, the last of which will contain a full index.

The subscription to the Society is One Guinea per annum, due in advance on January 1st, which entitles a member to a copy of all ordinary publications of the Society. It is hoped that members will kindly make the existence of the Society known as widely as possible to their friends.

The following are a few examples of documents which it is proposed to include in the publications of the Dugdale Society :—

Feet of Fines: Subsidy Rolls: Inquisitions Post Mortem: Quarter Sessions Papers before 1700: Cartularies: Manor Records: Wills and Inventories: Parish Registers and Transcripts thereof: Churchwardens' Accounts and Briefs: Marriage Bonds and Allegations: Acts of Archidiaconal Courts: Municipal Records; besides many other MS. records of mediaeval life, both civil and religious, in Warwickshire.

It is requested that the names of new members and subscriptions be sent

To the Hon. Sec., Dugdale Society,
Shakespeare's Birthplace,
Stratford-upon-Avon.



VIVAT REX

Stratford super Avon et successoris suis omnibus
eiusdem

EDWARD VI

From initial letter of the Charter of Incorporation

28 June 1553

MINUTES AND ACCOUNTS
OF THE CORPORATION OF
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON
AND OTHER RECORDS

1553-1620

TRANSCRIBED BY

RICHARD SAVAGE

*Secretary and Librarian of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, and
Deputy Keeper of the Records of the Corporation of
Stratford-upon-Avon from 1884 to 1910*

WITH INTRODUCTION AND NOTES BY

EDGAR I. FRIPP, B.A. LONDON

Late Lecturer to the London, Liverpool, and Belfast University Extensions

VOLUME I. 1553-1566

OXFORD
PRINTED FOR THE DUGDALE SOCIETY
BY FREDERICK HALL, PRINTER TO THE UNIVERSITY

1921

PREFATORY NOTE

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STRATFORD-UPON-AVON is rich, perhaps as rich as any borough in England, in its records. Owing partly, no doubt, to Shakespeare's connexion with it, documents that might seem in any way to bear upon his life and work have for a considerable period been carefully collected or preserved, and the labours of such able writers as Edmund Malone, Robert Bell Wheler, J. O. Halliwell-Phillipps and Sir Sidney Lee, not to mention others, have both added to the treasures and awakened interest in their value. There is a mass of material at Stratford under the care of the Birthplace Trust, belonging to the Trustees or to the Corporation, and elsewhere—as at Worcester, the Public Record Office, Somerset House, the British Museum, and the Bodleian Library—which should permit of a full history of Shakespeare's native town during his lifetime, throwing light, not only on the Poet's biography, plays, and poems, but on the religious, political, economic, and municipal conditions of the age. A chapter in the story of a town of the comparative importance of Stratford is a chapter also in the story of Warwickshire, the Midlands, and even of England.

This volume is an attempt to give and interpret the records of the years from 1553 to 1566. They have been glanced at by many and read by a few, and one or two have appeared in print. They are now published in full for the historian as well as the student of Shakespeare, and their respective sources are indicated.

We desire very heartily to thank the Corporation of Stratford-upon-Avon and the Trustees and Guardians of Shakespeare's Birthplace for their generous permission to transcribe and publish the documents which are their property,

PREFATORY NOTE

and to express our sense of the unfailing courtesy of the officials in Worcester, London, Oxford, and wherever we have sought assistance. Especially we are grateful to Mr. F. C. Wellstood, M.A., Secretary and Librarian of the Birthplace Trust, the founder of the Dugdale Society and General Editor of its publications. This volume owes very much to his valuable criticism and information.

RICHARD SAVAGE.
EDGAR I. FRIPP.

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INTRODUCTION

I. *The Town and People.*

‘OUR Borough of Stratford-upon-Avon in our County of Warwick’ (so runs the preamble of King Edward’s Charter of the 28th June, 1553) ‘is an ancient borough, wherein a certain Gild was heretofore founded and endowed with divers lands, tenements and possessions, out of the rents, revenues and profits whereof a certain Free Grammar School for the education and erudition of boys and youths there was maintained and supported, and a certain Almshouse there for twenty-four poor people therein to be kept was likewise maintained and supported, and a certain great stone bridge called Stratford Bridge, situate and built upon and over the water and river of the Avon hard by the aforesaid borough, was from time to time maintained and repaired.’¹

Of the antiquity of the town the name is sufficient evidence. It tells of an English settlement at the *ford* where the Roman *street* crossed the river called by the Welsh the *afon*. The settlement was contemporary with the inroad of the Saxons from the south and west into the dense forest which the Midland Welsh long made their refuge.² Besides the principal ford there was, perhaps, another in Old Stratford, near the present Mill Bridge. Old Stratford and the Church were outside the Borough, which gathered about the crossing higher up the river, and outgrew the parent village. The Borough in time was approached by a long wooden bridge, and became a thriving market-town. Primitive country features are preserved in the names Windsor, Greenhill Street, Moor Town’s End, Mere Pool Lane, and Bankcroft. Wood Street, Corn Street, Sheep Street, Swine Street, Rother Street, and the Bull Ring prove the character of the place and occupation of the people.

¹ p. 1.

² J. R. Green, *The Making of England*, p. 347 f.

INTRODUCTION

Industries left their mark on Walkers' Street, Tinkers' Lane, and probably Ely Street.¹ The Bridge, Gild, Chapel, and Church gave their names to Bridge Street and Bridge Town, Gild Pits, Chapel Street, Chapel Lane, and Church Street. Henley Street and Henley Lane indicated the way to Henley-in-Arden, the next market-town, eight miles distant.

In the sixteenth century a dozen or more trade-companies or 'occupations', most of them including minor crafts, had come into existence. Leading townsmen were mercers, weavers, woollen-drapers, tailors, dealers in various kinds of leather goods, vintners, brewers, innkeepers, butchers, and bakers. Many combined husbandry, malting, or victualling with their 'occupation'. Leather Sealers were among the Borough officers. The cloth industry was growing while agriculture declined. There was demand for wool, sheep, and pasture, and the conversion of arable land into meadow was the cause of serious discontent. The new Protestant landlords were deliberate and persistent robbers of the common lands.² Wealth nevertheless increased. Timber houses of three stories and tiled began to replace the two-storied thatched dwellings. Timber and stone were still cheap, and house-rent was remarkably low. Iron was expensive and restricted to its old mechanical uses or its employment as a medium for friction and fire. As a building material it was, happily, almost unknown. Lead was used for roofing and spouting, and was costly. Nails were coming in, and the old keying and pegging, the triumphs of the joiner's craft, were going out. Stone crosses stood in the busy centres of the town—the Market or High Cross at the north end of High Street near its junction with Bridge Street, Wood Street, and Henley Street; the Chapel or White Cross, before the Chapel door, at the union of Corn Street,

¹ Possibly from Saxon *ele*, oil. Linseed oil was one of the products of the town. More likely the name is the *Ele*, *Yele*, or *Yeley* so common in the inventories, in *Elehouse* (brewhouse), *eling vat* (brewing vat), &c.: e. g. in that of John Sheldon of Warwick, 27 June, 1563. *Yeley Street* is a common spelling, e. g. in a lease of 3 Nov. 1563.

² The pillage of the monastic lands had left its evil influence behind. See John Hales's letter to the Protector from Coventry 25 Aug. 1548 (Strype, *Memorials*, ii. 2. 361) and Latimer's sermon on 8 March, 1549 (Parker Soc. i. 98–101).

Church Street, Tinkers' Lane, and Chapel Lane ; and a third cross near the point where Wood Street, Mere Pool Lane, Windsor Street, Greenhill Street, and Rother Street meet. The partly demolished Market Cross was covered over with a quaint wooden edifice which rested on four pillars and was surmounted by a clock-turret. Opposite the Market Cross, at the corner of High Street and Bridge Street, was a house called 'The Cage', which may have served at one time for a prison. The Gaol Hall was close by, perhaps where the Chure, or passage from Bridge Street, entered the High Street. The pillory,¹ and perhaps the stocks and whipping-post,² stood on open ground at the corner of Sheep Street and Corn Street. Aucking-stool³ was also kept for the punishment of scolds. There were pumps at the Market Cross and Chapel Cross,⁴ fire-hooks at the Market Cross,⁵ fire ladders in the Chapel Yard,⁶ and leather buckets at the Gild Hall. Fire was a terrible enemy, and three disastrous conflagrations took place in Shakespeare's lifetime, in 1594, 1595, and 1614.

Misdemeanours were usually connected with strong drink, though drunkenness does not seem to have been very common until the reign of James.⁷ Wine was sold in taverns by vintners, beer in alehouses by tipplers. Both vintners and tipplers were licensed. Ale, largely brewed at home, was of a light quality and almost universally partaken of. Drink for sale, like bread, was regulated in price and quality and supervised by Tasters. Hops and 'other subtle things' were prohibited in beer.⁸ There were four inns. Ale and victualling houses were numerous and did good business on Market and Fair Days, when the town was very much alive. The population of

¹ Richard Chaloner paid rent c. 3 Edward II for 'a tenement at the corner of Sheep Street next the Pillory' (Gild Accounts). The pillory was repaired at an outlay of 18*s.* 6*d.* in 1567 (Cham. Acc. 10 Jan. 1567).

² For the stocks see Chamberlains' Account, 23 Jan. 157⁵. The whipping-post was ordered to be set up at the High Cross on 15 April, 1614 (Council Book B. 262).

³ Cham. Acc. 23 Jan. 157⁵.
⁴ Cham. Acc. 13 Jan. 1608. The Chapel Cross was removed and the well filled up by order of the Council of 2 July, 1595.

⁵ Cham. Acc. 14 Mar. 157⁵.

⁶ Cham. Acc. 17 Feb. 157⁴.

⁷ Harrison complains of strong brews coming into fashion in 1577 (Holinshed, ii, c. 11).
⁸ See p. 90.

the parish was about three thousand,¹ at least two thousand of whom would be resident within the town. Sanitary conditions were primitive and perilous. The authorities did their best to keep the streets clean and limit the refuse-heaps to the four or five public 'muck-hills'. Periodic attention to the cesspools did not prevent contamination of the wells, and the stream that ran through the town (along Mere Pool Lane, Rother Street, Tinkers' Lane, and Chapel Lane) was a frequent source of trouble. Infant mortality, to judge from the registers, was very high. In 1564, and again, in a much less degree, in 1578, 1596, 1597, and 1604, the Borough was visited by plague. The streets had 'paved', i.e. cobbled, side-walks, which the adjoining owners and leaseholders were required to keep in repair. Heavy wagons drawn by long teams of oxen lumbered through the town, and in consequence of their damage to the roads their size had to be limited by order of the Chamber. It was forbidden to let ducks, pigs, or unmuzzled dogs wander in the streets. Pinfolds were in Mere Pool Lane and Tinkers' Lane. The large number of trees, particularly elms,² if they did not add to the health of the Borough, were no small feature of its beauty. Bees were kept for wax and honey. Sugar was a luxury, usually taken in wine. Sack and sugar was the beverage supplied by the Corporation to Justices, Preachers, and other distinguished visitors. Gardening was a favourite pursuit. The workers were not victims of machinery but masters of their tools, with skilful and inventive fingers. Women were trained in farm and household accomplishments. All classes had a passion for both indoor and outdoor games.³ They were a social and musical people, loved dancing, acting, and singing. For the most part they rose and went to bed with the sun. With only candle and rushlight they had not the temptation to sit up which now robs us of the pleasures of

¹ 'The Warden is parson of the Church and hath cure of a 1500 houseling people within the same parish' (Survey of the College, 1545-6). The communicants were about half the population.

² See the Survey of the Corporation Estate, 5 & 6 Nov. 1582.

³ By the Bridge was the Butt Close for archery. There was a Bowling Alley in the Gild Garden (Cham. Acc. 11 Jan. 161 $\frac{1}{2}$). Shakespeare's earliest plays (e.g. *Love's Labour Lost*) are full of references to games.

the dawn. At night, unfortunately, they closed the casements and drew their bed-curtains to shut out the ‘rheumy’ air ‘unpurged’ of the sun.¹ They were both superstitious and religious. They believed in ghosts and fairies, in witches and the evil eye ; they believed also in God and Christ and the Future Life as unquestioned realities. Religion was inseparably bound up with politics—with questions of the papacy and the divine right of princes, with episcopacy and civil freedom—and was a frequent cause of division and strife.

II. *The Church, Gild, and Bridge.*

The Parish Church, a stately edifice dedicated to the Holy Trinity, owed much to a distinguished native, John de Stratford, Archbishop of Canterbury from 1333 to 1348, who built or rebuilt the south aisle, and founded a chantry for five priests, endowing it with lands and bestowing upon it the patronage of the living, which he purchased from the Bishop of Worcester. His nephew, another eminent native, Ralph de Stratford, Bishop of London from 1340 to 1354, erected a house for the priests near the churchyard. This is the ‘mansion place’ seen by Leland about the year 1542 and described by him as ‘an ancient piece of work of square stone hard by the cemetery’.² From the time of Henry the Sixth, when the chantry was converted into a college, Ralph de Stratford’s house was known as the College.

A warden of the College, an Oxford D.D., Thomas Balsall, who was a priest in Stratford for nearly forty years until his death in 1491, rebuilt the choir of the Church, and raised for himself a handsome altar-tomb on the north side, which is still there though the brass and inscription are gone. A later warden and benefactor was John Colet’s friend, Doctor Ralph Collingwood. Following the intention of his predecessor in the spirit of the founder of St. Paul’s School, Collingwood made provision for four choir-boys to assist in the services of the Church. They lived in the College by day, waiting at

¹ *Julius Caesar*, ii. 1. 261 ff.

² *Itinerary*, Toulmin Smith, ii. 49.

table and reading the Bible aloud at dinner and supper. At night they slept in the upper story of an ancient edifice, believed to be part of the original monastery of Stratford, outside the Church against the north wall of the chancel. Beneath their dormitory was a vaulted chamber, partly underground, which was used in Shakespeare's time as a 'bone-house'. There is reference to this chamber and the Church tower, apparently, in Juliet's speech :

O, bid me leap, rather than marry Paris,
From off the battlements of yonder tower; . . .
Or shut me nightly in a charnel-house,
O'ercover'd quite with dead men's rattling bones,
With reeky shanks and yellow chapless skulls.¹

At the Survey of 1534–5 the income of the College was £128. John Bell, future Bishop of Worcester, was warden, and under him were a subwarden, three chaplains, and three clerks. At the dissolution in 1548 the little community consisted of Anthony Barker (warden), Edward Alcock (sub-warden), John Callway (chanter), Richard Sharpe (organist and teacher of the choir-boys), Richard Bedell, Roger Dyos (parish curate), Thomas Clarke (presbyter), and John Endisdale (chanter).

The Gild of the Holy Cross was in the Borough, and its Chapel, which was built by licence granted by Godfrey Giffard, Bishop of Worcester in 1269, served for old and impotent folk who found the distance to the Church inconvenient. It was a notable fraternity, including Sisters as well as Brethren, with a county reputation, and considerably enriched by the gifts and bequests of its members. In 1403, when it absorbed the Old Stratford Gild of the Blessed Mary and St. John the Baptist, it consisted of Brothers and Sisters, eight Aldermen, a Master and two Proctors, and two or more Priests (as funds permitted) to say mass and offer prayers for the souls of the departed. Yearly the Brothers and Sisters elected the Aldermen, and these chose the Master and Proctors. To the Proctors was entrusted the care of the Gild estate, which in 1403 embraced

¹ *Rom. & Jul.* iv. i. 77–8, 81–3.

twenty messuages, three shops, a halfyard land, and a moiety of burgages in Stratford, Bridge Town, and Ryon Clifford. The hall of the old Stratford Gild, known as the House of St. Mary, was retained as a School-house, but the Master ('John Schoolmaster') was accommodated in the 'Rood House' (as the hall of the Gild of the Holy Cross was called) in Church Street. In 1416-17 the school followed the Master to Church Street, where in 1427-8 a School-house, with a chamber over it, was constructed a few yards south of the Chapel, at the cost of a little over £10.

In 1433-4 Thomas Balsall was a Proctor. He contributed to the erection of a chancel for the Gild Chapel in 1451-2, when John Hannes, who occupied the large house at the corner of High Street and Ely Street now miscalled 'Tudor House', was Master. The chancel, which still stands, cost £25, the chief items being timber £4, coloured glass £4, and lead for the roof £13. In 1455 Balsall was elected Master. Next year one John Joliffe of Stratford devoted property for the endowment of the Gild School, which became available by the death of his son, Thomas Joliffe, Rector of Clifford Chambers,¹ a quarter of a century afterwards. By an indenture of 12 February, 1482, Balsall, then Warden of the College, was made a trustee with Thomas Clopton, Master of the Gild, and others, for the administration of Thomas Joliffe's bequest of lands and tenements in Stratford and Dodwell for the payment of £10 a year to a 'priest, suitable and able in knowledge to teach grammar freely to all scholars coming to the School in the said town of Stratford, taking from the scholars nothing for himself for their instruction', who should be one of the five priests of the said Gild at the next vacancy, with provision of a chamber within the Gild, and when no longer able to teach a pension of £5 *per annum*.

Before his death Balsall delivered 200 marks to Sir Hugh Clopton for the use of the College, and made his will on 21 October, 1491, which was proved on the 14th February

¹ 'Master Thomas Jolyf *alias* Webbe, Rector of the Church of Clifford' (Gild Register, 1457-8).

following.¹ Sir Hugh was brother of Thomas Clopton, Balsall's co-trustee. Thomas had inherited the Clopton estate and manor-house, where, by permission of Pope Sixtus IV (1471–84), mass was celebrated in 'a fair chapel' built by him. He married and had a son Thomas, who had a son William. Sir Hugh Clopton, who had prospered as a mercer in London, died a wealthy bachelor on 15 September, 1496, bequeathing his Stratford property to his brother's grandson, William, including his 'great house', New Place, afterwards owned by Shakespeare. He left £50 for the rebuilding of the 'cross-aisle' (transepts) of the Church, £50 and other moneys (including a third of the residue of his estate) for the mending of perilous bridges and ways within ten miles of Stratford, and instructions that arrangements made by him with a mason Dowland and others for the rebuilding, glazing, and furnishing of the Chapel and erection of a tower should be carried out. 'I will', he said, 'that the said masons sufficiently and ably do and finish the same with good and true workmanship.'²

About the year 1500, then, the Chapel, Gild Hall, School, and Almshouse were as John Leland saw and admired them in or about the summer of 1542. 'There is a right goodly Chapel,' he wrote, 'in a fair street toward the south end of the town, newly re-edified by Hugh Clopton. There is a Grammar School on the south side, of the foundation of one Joliffe, a Master of Art, born in Stratford. There is also an Almshouse.'³ Externally the block of buildings presented much the appearance it does to-day, save that probably the Hall was detached from the Chapel Tower and the Almshouse from the Hall. The passage between the Chapel Tower and the Hall led into a quadrangle enclosed by the Chapel on the north, the Priest's House and School-house (with the Master's chamber over it) on the east, the Almshouse garden on the south, and on the west the Gild Hall, a building of two stories with various rooms and offices attached. The lower chamber, a long room entered through a porch, was the 'Great Hall', where

¹ P. C. C. 4 Doggett.

² P. C. C. 2 Horne.

³ Toulmin Smith, ii. 49.

the Brothers and Sisters elected their Aldermen and held their annual feast. A lattice-window looked into the quadrangle. Projecting into the quadrangle from the south-east end of the Great Hall was the 'Counting House' or office of the Proctors, for which a chimney was built in 1427-8. The Great Hall and Counting House made an excellent theatre and tiring-room for players. At the south end of the Great Hall was a 'Kitchen', a building of two bays. Here also was 'the Stair' to the upper story, and probably the 'Ladies' House'. The upper story was called the 'Over Hall' and 'Dorter'. It was probably partitioned into chambers, one serving as a hospital for the sick. From the Over Hall rooms led out corresponding to the rooms beneath. The chamber above the Counting House, a handsome apartment with a ceiling of oak-beams and plaster, was probably the Council Chamber where the Master met his Aldermen and 'worthier Brethren'. In the roof of the Over Hall had been added a Solar or loft, traces of which may be seen, a main beam having been cut to facilitate access by a narrow stair. In this Solar, or possibly in a loft over the supposed Council Chamber, was deposited the great muniment chest with three locks now preserved in the New Place Museum. Off 'the Stair' leading to the Over Hall was a small room which formed the upper part of a picturesque little dwelling, probably that described as 'the Chamber next the Gild Hall' and allotted to the retired Schoolmaster, William Dalam, in 1555.¹

At its dissolution in 1548 the lands and possessions of the Gild were of the annual value of £43. Four chaplains received £5 6s. 8d. a year, the Schoolmaster, William Dalam, £10. Oliver Baker, keeper of the clock in the Tower, received 13s. 4d. To 'twenty-four poor men, Brethren of the said Gild' was given yearly 10s. in coals and £2 13s. 4d. in ready money, besides £5 or £6 jointly 'of the good provision of the Master'.²

The close connexion of the Gild with the Borough is indicated by the dates of the two principal Fairs at the time of

¹ See p. 49: *Cameram . . . iuxta domum sive aulam nuper vocatam the gild hall in Stratford*.

² Chantry Certificate 57, no. 24, Public Record Office.

the Charter. Stratford was famous for its fairs, which had been held, in different periods, on the Eve of Trinity Sunday and the two days following (in honour of the dedication of the Parish Church), on the Eve, Day, and Morrow of St. Augustine (27–29 May), on the Eve, Day, and Morrow of the Exaltation of the Cross (14–16 September), on the Eve, Day, and Morrow of the Ascension, on the Day of SS. Peter and Paul (29 June) and fifteen days after, and on the Day and Morrow of the Finding of the Cross (3–4 May).¹ In 1553 there remained the two fairs in honour of the Cross—on 3–4 May and 14–16 September.² Leland speaks of the latter as attended by ‘a very great concourse of people’.³ The Gild was dedicated to the Holy Cross, and paintings of the Legend of the Rood adorned the walls of the chancel of the Chapel.⁴

To Sir Hugh Clopton the Borough owed the lasting benefit of ‘a sumptuous new Bridge and large of stone’ which he erected in the reign of Henry VII. So it is described by Leland, who rode over it on his way from Warwick and Charlecote. ‘In the middle,’ he says, ‘be a six great arches for the main stream of Avon, and at each end certain small arches to bear the causey, and so to pass commodiously at such times as the river riseth.’⁵ The previous bridge, he informs us, was ‘very small and ill, and at high waters very hard to pass by’.⁶ Trade improved after the approach to Stratford from Oxford and London was thus secured. In Bridge Street were the four inns—the Swan, the Bear, the Crown, and the Angel—smithies, taverns, butchers’ shops and the Shambles, bakeries, shops of haberdashers and shoemakers. Middle Row, which divided the street for two-thirds of its length into Fore Bridge Street and Back Bridge Street, was a little hive of industry, and probably the busiest part of the town.

¹ Dugdale, *Warwickshire*, 514–16. On 516^a the 14 October is a wrong date.

² See p. 11.

³ Toulmin Smith, ii. 27.

⁴ Fisher, *Antiquities at Stratford-upon-Avon*.

⁵ Toulmin Smith, ii. 27.

⁶ He says further, ‘This Bridge hath fourteen great arches of stone and a long causey made of stone and now walled on each side at the west-end. Afore the time of Hugh Clopton there was but a poor bridge of timber and no causey to come to it, whereby many poor folks and other refused to come to Stratford when Avon was up, or coming thither stood in jeopardy of life’ (ii. 49).

Clopton's bridge, called the 'Stone Bridge' and 'Great Bridge', was entrusted to Wardens or Masters annually elected at the Bridge Ale in Rogation Week.¹ Various small properties bequeathed or given for the purpose provided a revenue for maintenance and reparations.² For extraordinary expenditure, as in 1524, when two arches were rebuilt, the 'charity of well-disposed people both of the town and other places' was called upon. During Latimer's episcopate (1535-9) the date of the Bridge Ale was changed from Rogation Week, with its 'superstitious' and somewhat riotous associations, to Passion Week, and contributions were made, if not levied, at the feast on behalf of the funds of the wardenship. Other changes were effected about that time. The Wardens took over the St. George and Dragon Pageant, and with it the upkeep of St. George's Altar in the Church. The saint rode on horseback through the streets clad in armour and leading the captive beast, which belched gunpowder flames and smoke from its mouth and was followed, apparently, by a Vice or Buffoon in costume and warriors armed with pikes. This happened on Holy Thursday (Ascension Day), when candles were sold and burned at the altar and offerings were made in support of the Bridge.³

In Edward's reign the altar was abolished and the pageant dropped, and the Wardens undertook the minding and reparation of the clock and bells of the dissolved Gild and other

¹ Their Accounts exist in MS.

² A house in Wood Street left by Master John Hall of Hook Norton (27 Nov. 1519), a house in Sheep Street left by William Philips of Stratford, a barn on Bankcroft Side left by John a Bridge *alias* Baker of Stratford, a close at the east end of the Bridge, another house in Sheep Street, and muck-hills at Sheep Street-end and Bridge Street-end given by the Bishop's steward.

³ There is nothing about the pageant in the Accounts of 1534 and 1535, which are the first we have in detail. The next in detail is that of 1541, which contains the entries 'payd for Skowryng Sent george harnes ij^s, to brynklow for Sharpyng the pyks iiij^d'. That of 1543 has 'for Skowryng ye harnes iijs, taward ye vyez Cott ij^s, Whytley for kepyng ye alter iiijs iiid'; that of 1545, 'to Thomas Whytley for kepynge sent george alter viij^d, for ij canstyx & ij tapers iiiid', for Scouryng Sent george harnes ij^s x^d'; that of 1547, 'for Scowryng Sent george harnes iijs viij^d, to beysond for Wax & makynge viij^d, to Walter for Rydyng Sent george viid, to hym yt bare ye dragon iiiid, to Henshaw for mending ye dragon xiid'. The locality of the altar is determined by the will of John Wilkinson *alias* Sadler 1 June, 1542: 'I bequeath my body to be buried within the Parish Church before Saint George.' For canstick see *1 Henry IV*, III. i. 131.

INTRODUCTION

useful duties. But in the first year of Mary, on 3 May, 1554, the pageant reappeared. The following items occur in the Wardens' Account :

Itm payd for dressynge the dragon & for berynge the dragon & werynge seint george harnes on holy thursday	ij <i>s</i> viij <i>d</i>
payd for gunne powder	iiij <i>d</i>
payd for scowrynge seint george harnes	iij <i>s</i>
payd for ij dossen belles	xvj <i>d</i> ^z

Similar items are found in the Account of 1556 :

Imprimis payed for the scouringe of the harnes and settinge hit on the mans backe	ij <i>s</i> x <i>d</i>
Item for letheringes for the harnes	vij <i>d</i>
Item for bearinge the dragon and wearinge seynt gorges harnes	ij <i>s</i>
Item a dosyn of poyntes for the harnes	ij <i>d</i>

and of 1557 :

payd for Scowrynge the harnes	ij <i>s</i> x <i>d</i>
payd for letherynge & pwyntyng ye harnes	x <i>d</i>
payd to iij men for berynge the dragon & Sent george harnes	ij <i>s</i>
payd for gune powder	ij <i>s</i>

On the accession of Elizabeth the pageant was again dropped, and soon afterwards the Bridge Wardens relinquished their functions and small property to the Corporation.²

III. *The Court Leet.*

Prior to the Charter of Incorporation of 28 June, 1553, authority in Stratford was derived from the Lord of the Manor. For centuries this lord had been the Bishop of Worcester, but in 1549 Bishop Nicholas Heath parted with the manor to John Dudley, Earl of Warwick, in exchange for lands in Worcestershire. The same year the Earl made it over to King Edward, to receive it again in 1553.³ Thus the Court Leet of April 1548 was held in the name of Bishop Heath by his steward or seneschal, Sir George Throgmorton of Coughton,⁴ but that of April 1552 was kept by the king's

¹ The bells were probably for Saint George's horse and the Vice's costume.

² The last Account is for 1562.

³ Dugdale, *Warwickshire*, 516^b.

⁴ Misc. Doc. xii. 7.

representative.¹ Twice a year, shortly after Easter and after Michaelmas, the lord's steward summoned the freeholders and other inhabitants to a Great Leet or Law Day.² A Jury of at least twelve 'substantial and honest persons', designated 'the Twelve Men', heard the presentments of the Borough officers and pronounced upon them. At the Michaelmas Leet officers were chosen for the coming year, namely the Bailiff and two Sub-bailiffs, two Tasters of Victual, two Constables, and one or two minor functionaries like the Town-crier and the Beadle. Punishment was by fining, whipping, or correction in the stocks, pillory, orucking-stool. The Court had no right to imprison.³

On the 29th April, 1552, the Constables, William Whateley and Thomas Samuel, reported all well (*omnia bene*). The Sub-bailiffs, Rafe Charnock and William Butler, presented a townsman for drawing blood on another with a stick, for which offence he was fined 2*d.* with forfeiture of the stick, valued at 1*d.* The Tasters, Adrian Quyny and Robert Perrott, reported five bakers, who were fined 4*d.* apiece, and twelve victuallers, all women and wives of townsmen, who were fined 2*d.* each, for breaking the assize, and no less than forty-five tipplers (retail sellers of beer), all wives or widows, who were fined 1*d.* each for serving their customers in unsealed pots.⁴ They also presented four innkeepers (Thomas Winfield,⁵ John Burbage,⁶ Richard Marshall,⁷ and Edmund Barrett⁸), two

¹ Court Rolls, portfolio 207, no. 82, Public Record Office.

² 'Item that the Great Leets called the Law Days be there kept twice every year, on the Wednesday next after the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel and the Wednesday next after Low Sunday, and that every freeholder and residents be there present' (Orders, 1557. See pp. 63-4). The Court Leet continued for some time after the granting of the Charter.

³ See *English Local Government*, Sidney Webb, iii. 24 f.

⁴ Yet would you say ye were beaten out of door;
And rail upon the hostess of the house;
And say you would present her at the Leet
Because she brought stone jugs and no seal'd quarts.

(*Taming of the Shrew*, Induction, ii. 87-90.)

⁵ Of the Bear? at the bottom of Bridge Street on the south side, the present Anchor Inn with adjoining premises?

⁶ Of the Swan? at the bottom of Bridge Street (on the north side, opposite the Bear?).

⁷ Of the Angel, at the top of Back Bridge Street, adjoining Henley Street.

⁸ Of the Crown, in Fore Bridge Street, near the High Cross.

vintners (John Burbage and William Whateley), seven butchers, six chandlers, two victuallers, and four salted-goods-sellers, who were fined 2*d.* apiece for excessive charges. Offenders against the bye-laws were five householders who had neglected to keep clean their portion of the stream in Walkers' Street, including William Bragdon the curate and Richard Charnock, occupant of New Place¹ through his marriage with the widow of the late Doctor Bentley, Physician to King Henry VIII ; four who had made refuse-heaps in front of their houses in the King's highway, including Richard Symons the deputy Steward, and three who had made a refuse-heap in an unauthorized spot in Henley Street, namely Humfrey Reynolds, Adrian Quyny, and John Shakespeare, future father of the Poet. They were all fined 12*d.* each. Seven butchers and six chandlers were fined 12*d.* apiece for selling tallow and candles contrary to order. Two bakers, Richard Ainge and Roger Sadler, had to pay 3*s.* 4*d.* and 2*s.* respectively for selling bread under weight. A case was heard for the recovery of debt, but was left, it seems, undecided.

The 'Twelve Men' consisted of fifteen leading townsmen, some of whom or their wives were among the delinquents presented. They interest us as John Shakespeare's senior fellow-burgesses, with most of whom we shall have to do in the following records. They were—John Jeffreys, a yeoman, fishmonger and victualler living in the Shrieve's House in Sheep Street ; Thomas Dickson *alias* Waterman, a whittawer and glover in Bridge Street ; William Fidkin, a fishmonger and victualler in Henley Street ; George Whateley, a woollen-draper and victualler in High Street ; Thomas Gilbert, a dyer and victualler ; William Whateley, kinsman of George Whateley and brother-in-law of William Fidkin, a vintner at the top of High Street facing the Market Cross ; Robert Bratt, a tippler and victualler ; George Turner, a clothier, owner of a house in Henley Street and another in Greenhill Street ; Daniel Phillips, a leather merchant in High Street ; Humfrey Plymley,

¹ *Notes and Queries*, 23 Oct. 1920, p. 322 f.

a yeoman and mercer in Sheep Street ; Richard Moore ;¹ John Dickson, a cooper and victualler ; George Quyny, probably an uncle or a brother of Adrian Quyny ; John Burbage, probably host of the Swan in Bridge Street as well as keeper of a tavern in Middle Row ; and Thomas Winfield, a butcher in Middle Row and perhaps host of the Bear in Bridge Street. The Affeerors, who fixed the amount of the fines, were William Biddle, Ralph Cawdrey, and William Butler. Cawdrey was a butcher with three small shops in the Shambles in Middle Row adjoining the Chure, and Butler was one of the Sub-bailiffs.

As the parish of Stratford extended beyond the Borough, a second court was held for the outlying hamlets of Old Stratford, Shottery, and Welcombe. Each township had its Tithingman (*decennarius*) or its Constable. Old Stratford had both, and a Bailiff. The Tithingman of Shottery (John Smyth) reported in 1552 *omnia bene*. The Constable (William Whateley, for whom see above) and the Tithingman (William Tayler) of Old Stratford presented three tipplers, who were fined 1*d.* each. The Tithingman of Welcombe (George Baily) reported *omnia bene*. Sir Richard Catesby, Lady Anne Smyth, widow, John Benedict, and William Smyth, freeholders, were fined 4*d.* each for *non-suit*, i.e. failure to attend the Court. William Smyth, a mercer, lived in Old Stratford. He was farmer of the tithe of the late College, and about this time married a sister of John Watson the future Bishop of Winchester, widow of Richard Savage of Evesham who died in June or July 1551.² Widow Savage brought two daughters with her to Stratford, and bore her second husband one daughter and six sons. Heriot was claimed in consequence of the death of William Richardson of Shottery and the marriage of Widow Agnes Colley of Old Stratford. A new tenant was admitted at Welcombe, Thomas Hiccocks junior, who lived to be 'Old Hiccocks' and tenant of William Shakespeare.³ A stray black cow, a foal, and two sheep were reported to be in the custody of the Bailiff of Old

¹ Possibly a slip for Robert Morse : see p. 6.

² His will was made on 27 June, and proved 6 August.

³ By Shakespeare's purchase of his farm from the Combes in 1602.

Stratford. The 'Twelve Men' were John Moore, gentleman ; Hugh Reynolds, gentleman, owner of a house in Corn Street on the site of part of the present Shakespeare Hotel, and successor to Widow Colley as tenant of her late husband's farm in Old Stratford, grandfather of Shakespeare's friend, William Reynolds ;¹ Thomas Winfield (above) ; Henry Biddle of High Street ; William Whateley (above) ; Richard Charnock (above) ; Adrian Quyny (above) ; Richard Burman of Shottery ; John Burman ; John Smyth ; Richard Pace of Shottery ; William Taylor, a day-labourer of Old Stratford ; Richard Hobbins of Shottery ; John Whateley ; and John Smart of Bishopton, bailiff to William Clopton. The Afferors were Thomas Winfield and Henry Biddle.

IV. *The Charter of Incorporation.*

After the dissolution of the Gild in 1548, a petition was sent to Edward VI by the leading townsmen praying for a Charter of Incorporation, which was granted.

'Whereas', runs the royal grant of 1553, 'the inhabitants have had and enjoyed divers franchises, liberties, free customs, jurisdictions, privileges, exonerations and acquittances by reason and pretext of the aforesaid Gild, and by reason and pretext of charters, grants and confirmations by our progenitors to the Masters and Brethren of the aforesaid Gild and otherwise of ancient time made, which the same inhabitants cannot now hold and enjoy for that the said Gild is dissolved, and for other causes now to us apparent by the pretext whereof it is likely that the Borough and the government thereof will fall into a worse state if a remedy thereto is not speedily provided : whereupon the inhabitants have humbly besought us that we should extend our abundant grace and favour to them for the amelioration of the Borough and of the government thereof, and for the supporting of the great charges which they from time to time are forced and ought to sustain and support, and that we would deign to make, reduce and create the same inhabitants into a body Corporate and Politic, know ye that

¹ See Hugh Reynolds's will, 21 & 22 August, 1556, P. C. C. 19 Kitchen. And Shakespeare's will: 'To William Reynolds, gentleman, 26s. 8d. to buy him a ring.'

we do grant that the same Borough may be a Free Borough for ever hereafter.'

The continuity which is so marked a feature in the history of English institutions appears in the method of government brought about by the Incorporation. Fourteen of 'the better and more honest and discreet inhabitants' were named as Aldermen, who should be 'able to choose and associate with them' fourteen others to be called 'Capital Burgesses'. Together they constituted the Common Council.² Annually in September, before Michaelmas, they were to elect jointly a Bailiff and a Head Alderman, who should be Justices of the Peace within the Borough during their term of office.³ In place of the Sub-bailiffs two Serjeants-at-the-Mace were appointed.⁴ Constables and some other officers were retained, while others were added. The two Chamberlains or Borough Treasurers were to fulfil the duties which, so far as that large portion of the Gild estate which now became the property of the Chamber is concerned, were formerly carried out by the two Proctors. The Almshouse was to be maintained with its twenty-four inmates, who received 4*d.* a week and 'commodities heretofore had'.⁵ The Grammar School was renamed *The King's New School of Stratford-upon-Avon*,⁶ and the Master's salary raised from £10 to £20. The clear yearly value of the Gild property handed over was £46 3*s.* 2*d.* A portion of the College estate also came to the Council (though the Chamberlains did not immediately have the collection and disposal of its revenues). Tithes to the value of £34 per annum were to provide the Vicar £20 a year for his salary, 40*s.* for his tenths, the rent of a residence, and £10 for his assistant. To the lord of the manor was assigned the nomination of the Vicar and Schoolmaster, and the name of the Bailiff had to be submitted to him for approval. The Chamber, however, could choose the Steward, the Under Steward or Town Clerk, and the Recorder. The Sheriff of the County was to have no right of entry within the Borough. The Bailiff was to be his

¹ See pp. 1 f.

⁴ p. 5.

² p. 3.

⁵ p. 10.

³ pp. 4, 12.

⁶ p. 19.

own Escheator, Coroner, Almoner, and Clerk of the Market. The market was to be held weekly, and a Piepowder Court on market and fair days for the settlement of pressing disputes. A Court of Record was to be kept fortnightly for the hearing of petty cases.

The Aldermen named in the Charter, no doubt in order of seniority or standing, are, with two or three exceptions, towns-men already known to us : Richard Lord, butcher, an old Alderman of the Gild ; Hugh Reynolds, an old Master of the Gild and Bridge Warden ; William Smith, mercer, farmer of the College tithes, an old Master of the Gild and Bridge Warden ; Thomas Phillips, victualler in Bridge Street, an old Master of the Gild ; Thomas Winfield, an old Proctor of the Gild ; John Jeffreys, an old Proctor of the Gild and Bridge Warden ; Thomas Dickson *alias* Waterman, an old Proctor of the Gild ; George Whateley, son of an old Master of the Gild ; Henry Biddle, an old Proctor of the Gild and Bridge Warden ; William Whateley ; Robert Morse ; Robert Bratt, yeoman ; Thomas Gilbert ; and Adrian Quyny, son and grandson of Aldermen and Masters of the Gild and Bridge Wardens.

Richard Lord at the head of the list was a Catholic and Adrian Quyny at the bottom was a Protestant.¹ Jeffreys was a Catholic and William Smith a Protestant.² Thomas Gilbert, the nominated Bailiff (no doubt the High Bailiff elected the previous October), was presumably a Protestant. He died shortly before the 24th June, 1557, when his widow Eleanor made her will, bequeathing her soul in Protestant fashion ‘to Almighty God’, without mention of the Virgin or Saints, and desiring her ‘trusty and well-beloved Clement Throgmorton’, the Puritan squire of Haseley,³ to be supervisor. The Charter

¹ See further, pp. xlvi–xlvii, 101, and his letters to his son, Richard Quyny, in 1598. He was one of the leaders of the Protestant party in the Borough.

² Jeffreys had been a stout supporter of William Clopton against William Lucy in the matter of Edward Large in 1537. The preamble to his will, 27 July, 1566, is Catholic : ‘I give my soul to God to be in joy with our Blessed Lady and with all the Holy Company of Heaven.’ See also p. xliv. For Alderman Smith see pp. xxiii, liv.

³ A friend of Edward Underhill, the ‘hot gospeller’; also of the martyr, Thomas Hawkes, who entrusted his son to his care in June 1555. He was one

had been obtained, doubtless, through the good offices of John Dudley as lord of the manor and Earl of Warwick, now Duke of Northumberland and father-in-law of Lady Jane Grey, and care would be taken to ensure a majority favourable to the Reformation. Eight days after the signing of the Charter King Edward died, and Lady Jane Grey was proclaimed his successor. On the 19th July she was committed to the Tower. A month later, on the 22nd August, Dudley was executed, and the manor of Stratford passed to Queen Mary.

During Mary's reign the new Corporation recorded its proceedings in the manner of the manorial Court Leet. Symons's usual heading to them, *Visus Franci plegii cum Curia et Sessione Pacis*, becomes on the 14th October, 1557, *Visus Franci plegii cum Curia ballivi, aldermannorum et burgensium de Stratford*.¹ And of about the same date is a book of 'Orders made by the Baily, Aldermen and Burgesses, being the Common Council of the Borough of Stratford'.²

We gather that the Aldermen nominated in the Charter lost no time in selecting the following as Principal Burgesses : William Fidkin, who was an old Proctor of the Gild ; William Minske, a draper and victualler ; Daniel Phillips ; John Burbage ; Francis Harbage, a skinner and victualler in Corn Street ; Laurence Bainton, a mercer in the High Street ; William Smith, a corviser in Sheep Street ; Richard Harrington, a yeoman, with a shop called Bott's Shop in Middle Row ; Rafe Cawdrey ; Lewes ap Williams, a Welshman, an iron-monger, victualler, and fishmonger in High Street ; Roger Sadler, a baker in Henley Street, afterwards in High Street ; Robert Perrott, a brewer and yeoman ; George Turner ; and Richard Symons, a lawyer, scrivener, and yeoman, in whose old Gothic handwriting numerous wills, inventories, deeds, records, and other documents are extant from the year 1534-5 onwards, the first Town Clerk under the Corporation and a faithful officer.³ By the 6th April, 1554, Rafe Cawdrey

of Edward's Commissioners, and in Elizabeth's reign was closely identified with the left wing of Protestantism.

¹ See p. 75.

² See pp. 62-8.

³ See p. 28.

had been chosen an Alderman on the resignation of Hugh Reynolds, and the vacancy among the Burgesses created by his promotion had not been filled up. On the 20th April, 1555, William Fidkin had departed and two new Burgesses had been chosen—Humfrey Plymley, a yeoman and mercer in Sheep Street, and John Wheeler, a yeoman living near John Shakespeare in Henley Street.¹

V. *Religious Conflict.*

Evidences of the existence of personal feeling and religious strife among the members of the Corporation are by no means wanting. A fine of 3*s.* 4*d.* imposed in October, 1553, for reviling the Bailiff or other Queen's officer² was raised in April, 1554, to 10*s.* with three days' imprisonment³—the Council now possessing a Gaol Hall of their own in the High Street.⁴ On 11 October, 1555, the fine was increased to 20*s.* with three days' imprisonment.⁵ This day also it was resolved that any one who 'refused or forsook the office appointed unto him' should pay £5.⁶ The Book of Orders drawn up at Michaelmas, 1557, is full of vindictive penalties. Aldermen were to be fined 20*s.* and Principal Burgesses 10*s.* for absence on Election Day. Refusal to act as Bailiff or High Alderman was to be visited with forfeiture respectively of £15 and £12. Those who declined to be Constable or Taster were to be fined £5 or 40*s.* Non-attendance at an ordinary Hall would involve a payment of 6*s.* 8*d.*, and failure to wear a gown or join in procession a fine of 12*d.* For disclosing the 'words or deeds' of the Chamber the punishment would be for the first offence a fine of £5, for the second a fine of £10, and for the third expulsion for ever. Members were not to revile one another within or without the Chamber. They were to be 'brother-like' in Council, and to 'depart in brotherly love', under pain of 6*s.* 8*d.* And to say, do, or write anything prejudicial or

¹ Wheeler was elected a 'Taster on 4 Oct. 1554; see p. 28.

² 'The order of the last Leet,' see p. 24.

³ See p. 24.

⁴ See p. 111.

⁵ See p. 45.

⁶ See p. 44 f. In other Protestant boroughs, like Leicester and Coventry, leading townsmen held back from office and refused to wear the scarlet gown, being of the colour of the Whore of Babylon (Revelation xvii).

derogatory to the Charter meant a fine of one hundred marks, £66 13*s.* 4*d.*¹

Relations among members were strained, if not at breaking-point. Protestant feeling was strong in Stratford as elsewhere in Warwickshire. The first two martyrs under Mary were Warwickshire men, and the third was the late Bishop of the diocese. John Rogers, born at Deritend, Birmingham, friend and literary executor of William Tyndale and editor of the 'Matthew Bible', died at Smithfield on 4 February, 1555. Laurence Saunders perished at Coventry, his native city, four days later. John Hooper was burnt at Gloucester with horrible tortures on 9 February. Stratford was encircled by the martyr fires—at Coventry, Lichfield, Gloucester, Wotton-under-Edge, Banbury, Oxford, Northampton, Leicester. Men well known in the district were victims, or close friends of victims, such as Robert, John, and William Glover, John Careless, Richard Hopkins, Clement Throgmorton of Haseley, Bishop Latimer and his faithful chaplain, Augustine Bernher, Michael Reiniger, Edward Underhill ('Hooper's champion' and 'hot-gospeller'), and John Foxe the martyrologist, late tutor to Thomas Lucy at Charlecote.²

Latimer had spoken of Stratford and Warwick in 1537 as the 'blind end' of his diocese,³ but by the close of Mary's reign Stratford at least was a Protestant stronghold. Objection had been taken to the appointment by the Queen on 3 November, 1553, of Roger Dyos as Vicar over the head of Edward Alcock, late Subwarden of the College. Sixteen months passed before the Council agreed to pay him his stipend, and then they did so under pressure, in an elaborate deed in Richard Symons's best handwriting with initials in red ink, reciting at length the terms of the Charter as if in jealousy of their recently-acquired privileges. It was dated 7 February, 1555, the day of the arrival of Laurence Saunders in Coventry and of Bishop

¹ See pp. 62 ff., 67 f.

² Foxe, *Acts and Monuments*. Foxe entered the service of William Lucy about July 1545, and while at Charlecote, on 3 Feb. 154⁵/₆, married Agnes Randall, who was in Mistress Lucy's service, a daughter of Humfrey Randall of Coventry.

³ Latimer, Parker Society, ii. 384.

Hooper in Gloucester to be burned. Nor did the Council give Dyos more than ten months' salary of that due.¹

Very different was their treatment of the old Schoolmaster, William Dalam. By the terms of the Charter the Schoolmaster was to receive £20 a year instead of £10. A new master was engaged, William Smart, a graduate of Cambridge and Fellow of Christ's College, and, as it proved, a Protestant. Dalam, who was old, was retained as his assistant, Smart receiving £13 6s. 8d. (less a contribution for four years towards reparations), and Dalam £6 13s. 4d. This arrangement was agreed to at Christmas 1554, Smart undertaking 'to employ himself with such godly wisdom and learning as God hath endowed him with', and to 'teach all such scholars and children as shall fortune to come' fit for the Grammar School 'godly learning and wisdom'.² Whatever Protestant sympathies Dalam may have manifested in King Edward's reign, and it is unlikely that he would have retained his post if he had shown none, he was willing when the old worship was restored to say mass in the Gild Chapel and offer prayers for the dead. Smart escaped this duty by the arrangement made; and when in October 1555 the old man (*senio afflictus*) was relieved of his school-work a life pension of £8 was granted him, with use of a chamber next the Gild Hall, on the understanding that he continued to celebrate mass in the Chapel, and on the feast days in the Parish Church, 'so long as he shall live and be lawfully disposed to the same' (*quamdiu vixerit cum ad hoc legitime dispositus fuerit*). The Council evidently were of opinion that the disposition might again become 'unlawful'.³

Later, when the Steward, Roger Edgeworth, who was a Romanist,⁴ put on the screw, there was deep resentment. The Book of Orders of Michaelmas 1557 proves it, and fierce brawling in the town seems to confirm it. A quarrel which began among strangers at the market or September Fair spread

¹ See pp. 37, 102, and xlvi.

² p. 33 f.

³ p. 49.

⁴ Among 'the Adversaries of True Religion in that part of Warwickshire which is within the diocese of Wigorn.', as reported by the Protestant Bishop, Edwin Sandys, in October 1564 (*Camden Miscellany*, ix. 3).

to members of the Council. Master John Walsingham of Exhall and others, including two kinsmen of Principal Burgess Robert Perrott, a Protestant,¹ were attacked by one Morris, manservant to Mistress Clare. Perrott took his kinsman's part and resisted with 'opprobrious words' the Constable, who happened to be the Town Clerk, Richard Symons, in the performance of his duty. Thomas Dickson *alias* Waterman, son of the Alderman of the same name, was involved in this or another quarrel, wherein he drew blood on the Chamberlain, Lewes ap Williams. These cases were reported and dealt with on Friday, 1 October, 1557, and the same day the following resolution was passed :

'That no single-man dwelling in Stratford after Sunday now next coming do wear about him within the Borough or liberties of Stratford any bill, sword, woodknife, or dagger or any other such like weapon, under the pain of forfeiture of the same, and their bodies to prison, there to remain at the Baily's pleasure.'²

VI. *John Shakespeare.*

In these days of conflict two neighbours were ending their lives within a few miles of each other, who associated as landlord and tenant interest us greatly as the grandfathers of the future William Shakespeare. Robert Arden of Wilmcote, son of Thomas Arden of the same, and probably grandson of Sir Thomas Arden of Park Hall, Warwickshire, owned the farm at Snitterfield which Richard Shakespeare occupied. Robert Arden had a large family of daughters. His second wife, the step-mother of these girls, was a widow, Agnes Hill *née* Webbe, sister to Alexander Webbe of Bearley, whom he married some time between April 1548 and July 1550. He made his will on 24 November, 1556, bequeathing his soul, like a good Catholic, to 'Almighty God and to our Blessed Lady Saint Mary and to all the Holy Company of Heaven'. Richard Shakespeare, if we may recognize the father in his son, took

¹ See the preamble of his will, 8 Mar. 158⁸, which is not only Protestant but Puritan in language and fervour: 'Seeing all men are mortal and nothing more certain than death, although nothing more uncertain than the hour thereof, I, Robert Perrott, the unprofitable servant of God,' &c. (P. C. C. 39 Leicester).

² See p. 72 f. For Master Walsingham see further, p. ix.

the opposite side in religion, and followed the lord of the manor of Snitterfield, the Puritan John Hales.¹ His grandfather² had received a grant of land, probably for service at the Battle of Bosworth, which may have descended to an uncle at Balsall. He, at any rate, was a tenant farmer, holding the chief portion of Robert Arden's estate in Snitterfield. He had two sons, John and Henry, and apparently kinsmen, John, Thomas, and Anthony Shakespeare, who lived at Snitterfield. A sister of Richard Shakespeare may have been the mother, or his daughter may have been the wife of Thomas Greene of Warwick, a mercer in the High Pavement, who died in July 1590, and whose son, afterwards Town Clerk of Stratford, and a friend of William Shakespeare, called himself Thomas Greene *alias* Shakespeare.

The two John Shakespeares must not be confused with one another, nor with a third John Shakespeare, probably also a kinsman, son of Thomas Shakespeare of Warwick, a shoemaker, and owner of land at Balsall. The third John Shakespeare followed his father's craft at Warwick, in a house in the Market Place, then at Stratford, where he married the fairly well-to-do widow of Thomas Roberts of Bridge Street, and again at Warwick, where he died in February 1624. The second John Shakespeare removed from Snitterfield to Clifford Chambers, where he married on 15 October, 1560, a widow with some possessions, Julian Hobbins, and where he died in October 1610. The first John Shakespeare and eldest of the three, son to Richard Shakespeare, died in 1601. Born about 1528, he was apprenticed to a glover and whittawer, no doubt in Stratford, where his father had friends³ and he himself became speedily a trusted and leading townsman. A neighbour

¹ John Hales, 'of the Clubfoot', Clerk of the Hanaper.

² There seems no good reason to doubt the statement in the grant of 1599 by the College of Heralds, probably made on the authority of the poet, 'that John Shakespere, now of Stratford vpon Avon in the countie of Warwick, gent., whose parent great-grandfather and late antecessor for his faithful and approved service to the late . . . King Henry VII . . . was advanced and rewarded with lands and tenements given to him in those parts of Warwickshire'.

³ See the will of Thomas Atwood *alias* Taylor of Stratford, 21 Oct. 1543 (P. C. C. 7 Pynnyng). He left Richard Shakespeare four oxen which were 'in his keeping' (*Notes and Queries*, 16 Oct. 1920, pp. 303-4).

of his father in Snitterfield was John Townsend of the Wold, whose daughter, Joan, was wife of Thomas Dickson *alias* Waterman, glover and whittawer in Bridge Street, Stratford.¹ It is not unlikely that John Shakespeare entered the service and household of Thomas Dickson, who was appointed an Alderman of the Borough by the Charter of 1553,² and was able to help his old apprentice to a good position in the town.³

John Shakespeare would serve his seven years and, becoming a householder, would set up for himself, paying 6s. 8d. for his 'freedom' to the *Mystery, Craft, or Occupation of the Glovers, Whittawers, and Collarmakers*, of which it was necessary to be a member. Four times a year he paid his 2d. 'quarteridge'. The brotherhood met in their Hall, on dates arranged, for the consideration of matters affecting their 'commodity', on the summons of their beadle or reeve. Absence involved a fine of 12d., and refusal to attend of 6s. 8d. Summons was issued in the name of the Master and Warden, who were elected annually on the first Wednesday after Michaelmas, when the Accounts were presented. Half the fees and fines went to the Borough Council, by whom the rules and proceedings of the Mystery were authorized. The rights of the craft and its individual members were carefully safeguarded. Skins of sheep and lambs were not to be purchased before removal from the beast and dressing, nor were kid skins, calves' skins, or any skins used in the trade to be bought before exposure in the Market Place, or within fifty feet of the same in the open street, nor were they to be laid out for sale before 10 o'clock in the forenoon. Horse-hides and skins of swine and dogs were not to be sold to tanners, and butchers had to bring the skins of sheep and lambs with the flesh to market.⁴ The glovers' standing-place on market-days was at the old, quaint Market Cross.⁵ Here on Thursdays the Poet's father met his

¹ See the will of John Townsend, 10 Oct. 1546 (at Worcester).

² See p. 6.

³ *Notes and Queries*, 8 Jan. 1921, p. 23 f.

⁴ See the Book of their Orders: no. 5 of Trading Companies (Halliwell-Phillipps's *Calendar*).

⁵ So it was in 1618 and no doubt long before. On the 6th November, 1618, it was agreed by the Council 'that the seven glovers which by the High Cross

customers. Rules were strict with regard to apprentices. Any boy taken into employment and instructed in the business must serve for seven years, after signing his indenture in the presence of the Bailiff and Steward of the Borough. The engagement was a binding one on both apprentice and master, with right of complaint by either to the Bailiff.

Incidentally John Shakespeare had to do with wool and meat, whence the legends that he was a woolstapler and a butcher. He was a yeoman as well as a glover, and farmed land at Snitterfield with his father, later at Ingon probably with his brother Henry. Many of the Stratford tradesmen were yeomen. In April 1552 John Shakespeare was fined with Adrian Quyny and Humfrey Reynolds for making a muck-hill in an unauthorized spot in Henley Street,¹ where he probably lived, in one of two houses he subsequently owned and occupied.

Four years later he comes conspicuously into view. He was sued in the Court of Record by Thomas Siche of Armscote for the large sum of £8. The case lasted through four sittings and resulted in his favour, being allowed to go by default on the 12th August, 1556. He pleaded that he had justly used physical force on the plaintiff.² In September he was elected a Taster.³ The office was one of trust and the usual first step in municipal promotion. ‘Able persons and discreet’ is the qualification in the Leet Book at Coventry.⁴ In Leicester they promised :

‘We shall duly and truly search and assay, and that which is good we shall able, and that that is ill we shall not able, and we shall not let for favour or for hatred, kin or alliance, but we shall do euen right and punish as our minds and consciences will serve.’

have their standings shall have their standings to the midst of the Street at their common charges’ (Council Book B, p. 364). This would indicate almost a prescriptive right there.

¹ There was an authorized refuse-heap at the country-end of Henley Street before the house of the wheelwright, William Chambers, who lived next door to Thomas Patrick. See p. 42.

² Court of Record Register.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Dormer Harris, p. 191.

Nor was their duty a light one if, as at Banbury, they made 'weekly and diligent search'.¹ The same month John Shakespeare was named as attorney in the Court of Record for Richard Lane—'Goodman Lane' as he was called, a victualler and yeoman in Bridgetown (at the other end of Stratford Bridge) and tenant of the old Gild garden—but he declined to act.²

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At the Court Leet of 2 October John Shakespeare was presented as having purchased a tenement in Henley Street, with a garden adjoining, from Edward West, and a tenement in Greenhill Street, with garden and croft, from George Turner.³ The chief-rent of the former, which was 6d., enables us to identify it with the eastern house of the two above referred to.⁴

On 19 November he sued his friend, Henry Field the tanner of Back Bridge Street, for the non-delivery of 18 quarters of barley; and the same day he was appointed arbiter by the Court in an action brought by William Brace, a draper in Corn Street, against a miller, William Rawson. His suit against Field occupied four sittings and ended apparently in arbitration.⁵ The purchase of barley shows his interest in agriculture, possibly in malting, though he is never mentioned as owning malt. He was a yeoman of Snitterfield until 1561. By farming and glove-making he prospered during his bachelorship.

He may have known Mary Arden, daughter of his father's landlord, for years before he married her, perhaps from her childhood. He was certainly a good deal her senior. He was the eldest son and she the youngest daughter of contemporaries, and she came at the end of a large family. He lived to be over 70, and she survived him seven years. In the spring or

¹ 'It is ordained that the Tasters shall weekly and diligently search and foresee that both ale and drink be well and wholesomely made, well brewed and sufficiently barmed as it ought to be, and also the said Tasters shall justly and truly from time to time present all those that shall at any time offend without favour, fraud, covine or malice, as well any other victuallers as brewers, strangers as townsmen, upon pain to forfeit for every offence 10s. in the d(iscretion) of the Tasters' (Orders, 24 April, 1564).

² Court of Record Register.

³ See p. 57.

⁴ *Inquisitio post mortem* of the Earl of Warwick, 6 Oct. 1590.

⁵ Court of Record Register.

summer of 1557, after a wedding celebrated most probably at Aston Cantlow, he brought her to Henley Street. It is worth observing that he was fined on 2 June for having failed to attend as Taster at three sittings of the Court of Record.¹ This is unlike an aspirant to Borough honours, and very unlike what we know of John Shakespeare at this period. He was probably engaged in things matrimonial and other private affairs. His wife's legacy of £6 13*s.* 4*d.* and freehold farm of Asbies at Wilmcote were welcome additions to his rising fortunes.

Twice in 1557 he was summoned to serve on the jury of the Court Leet, on 30 April (when he was excused) and 1 October (when he attended), and about the latter date he was elected a Principal Burgess.²

In the autumn of 1558, shortly before Queen Mary's death, he was appointed a Constable.³ To him at that critical time fell the task of depriving 'single-men' of their weapons and otherwise helping to preserve the peace.⁴ He must have been a man of some courage and physique. The oath of the Constables runs thus in the *Liber Custumarum* of Northampton :⁵

'Ye shall well and truly serve the King within the precinct . . . of this Town. In time of watch ye shall give due commandement and charge in the King's behalf to the watchmen such as shall be summoned by the Serjeant to appear before you ; and that they keep and make due watch and true from the time of your charge-giving until the sun be upon the morrow ; and that they keep their own quarter, and come into none other till they be required of any other watch or but any horn blow, any fray made or outcry, peril of fire or children and all such other ; also that they behave them in goodly wise in keeping of their watch, stilly going without noise or loud speech ; also if any strange man or woman happen to come to this Town by night time, that then they honestly do examine such man or woman ; and if they be not suspicious, bring them to an Inn, and if they be found suspicious or untrue then that

¹ Court of Record Register.

² He is not among the Burgesses of 29 September : see p. 62. For the oath administered to him as a Burgess see p. 69.

³ See p. 90.

⁵ *Records*, C. A. Markham and J. Charles Cox, i. 397.

⁴ See p. 100. Cf. p. 83.

they be brought to ward until the Mayor and Bailiffs have had examination of them.'

That the oath administered to John Shakespeare did not materially differ from this may be inferred from his son's burlesque of the office in *Much Ado About Nothing*, III. iii.:

Dogberry. Are you good men and true? . . . This is your charge: you shall comprehend all vagrom men; you are to bid any man stand, in the Prince's name. . . . You shall also make no noise in the streets. . . . You are to call at all the ale-houses, and bid those that are drunk get them to bed. . . . If you meet a thief, you may suspect him . . . to be no true man. . . .

Watchman. If we know him to be a thief, shall we not lay hands on him?

Dogberry. Truly, by your office you may. . . .

Verges. If you hear a child crying in the night, you must call to the nurse and bid her still it.

One particular duty is named in the Bye-Laws of 1557. Every month, 'upon pain to forfeit 6s. 8d.', John Shakespeare and his three colleagues, Humfrey Plymley, Roger Sadler, and John Taylor,¹ were required to 'call unto them a convenient number of the Company', i.e. of the Borough Council, 'to keep a privy watch for the good government of the Town', and any member who refused their summons 'without a sufficient cause to be allowed by the Company' was liable to the same fine of 6s. 8d.²

On the 15th September, 1558, between his election and his swearing-in as a Constable, John Shakespeare took his firstborn child, a daughter, to be baptized.³ Father Dyos no doubt officiated, and the child was named Joan, probably after Mary Arden's sister, Mistress Joan Lambert of Barton-on-the-Heath.

VII. Orders and Customs.

The Council which, under Roger Edgeworth's stewardship, drew up the Book of Orders of Michaelmas 1557, consisted of the twelve Aldermen and ten Principal Burgesses whose names

¹ See p. 90.

² See p. 68.

³ 'September 10 Jone shakspere Daughter to John Shakspere.'

appear on p. 62. There may have been more members—the number is short by two Aldermen and four Principal Burgesses of that prescribed in the Charter—or there may have been vacancies due to death, resignation, or obstinate refusal to serve. The company had changed very considerably since April 1555. Four old Aldermen, Richard Lord,¹ Thomas Phillips,² Thomas Winfield,³ Thomas Dickson *alias* Waterman,⁴ were gone and their places taken by Principal Burgesses ; and among the Burgesses were three new men—Richard Biddle, a chandler ; Richard Hill, a woollen-draper in Wood Street, a notable accession to the Council ; and John Lewis, a baker.

The Council met in the Old Gild Hall (whence their assemblies were known as ‘halls’), probably in the handsome chamber in the upper story over the former ‘Counting House’. The hour of meeting was eight or nine in the morning, and the small bell of the Chapel was rung for a quarter of an hour previously. Members had warning also from the Serjeants. The assemblies were monthly, unless business required otherwise (which was frequently the case), and nearly always on a Wednesday. Sometimes a second meeting was held in the afternoon. Members who were absent without the Bailiff’s permission were liable to a fine, which on Election Day (the Wednesday before the Nativity of Our Lady, 8 September) was a heavy one. Aldermen and Burgesses had to wear their gowns at the Hall and in procession through the town. In the absence of the Bailiff the Head Alderman presided. Resolutions were carried by the voices ‘of the more part’ present. Proceedings were strictly private, and members were sworn to secrecy. The Steward or his deputy, the Town Clerk, kept the minutes. The Bailiff received certain perquisites, such as one-third of all fines above 3*s.* 4*d.*, towards his expenses, which in the matter of hospitality were not small. He was waited upon daily by his Sergeant, and once a week by the Town Clerk. On Leet Days, Fair Days, and certain other occasions,

¹ Died 12 March, 155⁵/₆. ² Died c. 9 Sept. 1556, when he made his will.

³ Died before 30 April, 1557 : see p. 61.

⁴ Died after 30 April, 1557 : see p. 58.

Aldermen and Burgesses attended in their gowns at his house to escort him to Church or through the market or in perambulation of the Borough boundaries. They wore their gowns at Church on Sundays and holidays, and had seats near the pulpit. Their wives were entitled to seats near them. On the death of one of their number or of his wife, they accompanied the body to the burying, and stayed until the service was ended. At Christmas, from 15 December until 'Twentieth Day' (14 January), they hung lanterns before their houses from 5 o'clock until 8, when respectable townsmen, their servants and dogs, were expected to be in bed.

Whatever controversies, public or private, from time to time divided the Stratford Corporation, there seems to have been little or no friction between the Aldermen and Principal Burgesses, such as seriously disturbed the Warwick Council, where the lower body of Assistants or Commoners had hardly more than a consultative function.² At Stratford the Burgesses enjoyed equal rights with the Aldermen, save that the latter filled up the vacancies in their own ranks caused by death, expulsion, or resignation. Aldermen elected Aldermen. They also had the coveted social distinction of being addressed as 'Master'.

VIII. *The Court of Record.*

The Court of Record, like that at Banbury, was modelled on the pattern of the Court at Coventry.³ It was held every fortnight, if required, almost invariably on a Wednesday. The Bailiff and the Head Alderman sat on the bench as the Justices of Peace for the Borough, supported by two or three of their 'Brethren', i.e. Aldermen who had served as Bailiff, and by the Steward. The Steward was a lawyer of some standing in the neighbourhood, and able to guide the proceedings. He or his deputy, the Town Clerk, kept a record in Latin of what

¹ *The Book of the Orders*, pp. 62-7.

² *The Black Book of Warwick*, Thomas Kemp, pp. 10-14, 56-61, 105-16. The Assistants at Warwick envied the Principal Burgesses of Stratford (*ib.* p. 113).

³ 'Such pleas, complaints and actions be there heard and determined according to the law and customs of our City of Coventry' (Charter of Incorporation of Banbury, 26 January, 155 $\frac{3}{4}$). See 'The Regulations of the Court of Record' in the Book of Orders of Banbury, 14 May, 1558.

was done. Cases involving a sum not exceeding £30 could be dealt with. Summons was formally delivered by one of the Serjeants. If the defendant failed to appear, a *distringas*, or writ to compel appearance, was issued, which the Serjeant again formally delivered. If the defendant still failed to appear the Serjeant returned a *nihil*, that is, he made formal declaration in Court that he had waited upon defendant at his house and found 'nothing to distrain upon', and he asked for a *capias*, a warrant to arrest. Then the defendant had either to go to prison or find sureties, who would answer the charge against him, or pay the penalty, or bring him dead or alive into the Court. The *capias* generally had the desired effect. It was drawn up under the hand of the Steward or the Town Clerk. No *capias* was granted at the suit of a 'foreigner', or non-townsman, except it appeared plainly that he had a good case. The Steward or Town Clerk had to make 'good and perfect declarations' and deliver them to the two Attorneys of the Court. Townsmen with recognized experience of the law, such as Adrian Quyny and John Shakespeare, might act as attorneys. Legal knowledge had spread with the break-up of the monastic estates and consequent speculation in landed property. It was a litigious age, and the law on the whole was cheap and trustworthy. Business men went readily into Court to enforce payment of debt and settlement of differences. Money was scarce and hardly to be obtained at 10 per cent., and defendants often delayed payment until the *capias*. The commonly accepted evidence of John Shakespeare's poverty in after life, that nothing was found in his house to distrain upon, is quite worthless.¹ Nor does his presence in the Court with Adrian Quyny against him imply any want of friendship. Going to law was so common that there was little or no disgrace in it or ill feeling. The best of neighbours fought out their case before the Bailiff and Steward. 'Please ye,' says Tranio in *The Taming*

¹ 'There can be no doubt whatever that the words—*quod predictus Johannes Shackspere nihil habet unde distringi potest*—are not to be taken literally, and that they merely belong to a formula that was in use when a writ of *distringas* failed in enforcing an appearance' (Halliwell-Phillipps, *Outlines*, ii. 238).

of the Shrew (I. ii. 276-9), 'we may . . . as adversaries do in law, strive mightily but eat and drink as friends.' There seems no reason to limit 'adversaries' here to professional lawyers.

The Court of Record at Stratford and its procedure are of signal interest to Shakespeareans ; firstly, because John Shakespeare appeared there frequently, both as plaintiff and defendant ; and secondly, because his son, William Shakespeare, probably had experience of it in a professional capacity. The one subject the Poet shows an expert knowledge of, besides his player's art, is the routine and practice of a country attorney's office.¹

IX. *The Crafts of Stratford.*

Litigation often arose from trespass of one trade upon another. The crafts were jealous of their functions and privileges. Any person might bake, brew, and kill for home consumption, and many townsmen and their wives were bakers, brewers, and butchers for their households ; but nobody might bake, brew, or kill to sell unless a Common Baker, Brewer, or Butcher licensed by the Council. Many made tallow-candles, but only Common Chandlers might make them for trade. Brewers in their turn were not to sell 'in pot or by the dozen', the retail trade being the right of Common Tipplers and Victuallers. Butchers might not encroach upon the Chandlers, being forbidden to send their tallow out of the town, and were required to sell it at a price below what the 'foreigner' or non-resident buyer might give. Nor was meat to be brought to market without the hide or skin. This, as we have seen, was in the interest of skinners and tanners. In return for their monopolies, traders were required to observe the orders of the Council and the Assize,² providing goods of a specified quality at a regulation rate. Bread had to be marked, drink sold in sealed measures, and taverns (for the sale of wine, not beer) indicated by a bush, ale-houses by a stake. Hence the need of Tasters or Inspectors of Victuals.

¹ The earliest plays, for example, are full of legal expressions, some of them of a highly technical character.

² 'All the Common Brewers shall keep their Assize, given them weekly by the Bailiff or his deputy' (Banbury, Orders of 24 April, 1564).

Banbury, in 1556, had at least ten trade-companies, some of them embracing more than one occupation, and in Stratford there were more than a dozen. Besides the Butchers, the Bakers, and the Victuallers, there were the Haberdashers (including, as at Warwick, Mercers, Grocers, and Fishmongers), the Weavers, the Walkers and Fullers, the Dyers and Shearmen, the Curriers (including Barkers and Tanners), the Skinners and Tailors, the Glovers and Whittawers and Collarmakers (Pointmakers at Warwick), the Shoemakers and Saddlers, the Smiths, the Brewers, and, last but not least, a company which comprised all engaged in the Building Trade and some others : Masons, Joiners, Carpenters, Tilers, Wheelwrights, Ploughwrights, Tuggerers (makers of carts and cart gear), Fletchers (makers of bows and arrows), and Coopers. Next to corn and cattle, malt and ale, the chief commodities seem to have been leather and wool and their various products. The two Leather Sealers were important town officials.

To enter a craft a youth served an apprenticeship of seven years, living for this period in his master's house as one of the family, being, as a rule, fed and clothed and taught by him and given an increasing amount of pocket-money. At the end of this period he became a journeyman on wages, and upon payment of a fee (small if he had served in the town but larger if he had been an apprentice elsewhere) he obtained his 'freedom' in the 'Brotherhood' with the right to set up in business for himself. The craft had its Hall, its Master and Warden, and its Book of Rules (sanctioned by the Council). Most tradesmen supplemented their earnings by farming, malting, or victualling. The number engaged, one way or another, in victualling was very large. Markets and Fairs were chiefly responsible, and Protestantism was a factor in the case. The dissolution of the monastic houses, which were the mediaeval hostels, and the weakening of the civil authority of the Church had brought custom and independence to the Inn, the Tavern, and the Ale-house. Protestant 'liberty' found expression there. The 'heretical talk' at the ale-house at Offchurch near Warwick, when Latimer's sermons at Bristol were discussed in

the year 1533,¹ had become widespread, and in a score or more of Stratford eating and drinking houses men debated and quarrelled over the mass, pilgrimages, images, ceremonies, Bishop Hooper of Gloucester and Worcester, and the Prayer Book. Puritans at this time saw no harm in a tankard of ale or a glass of wine. Their preachers were regularly and liberally entertained with sack and sugar. It is hardly too much to say that in the reigns of Edward and Mary and the first half of the reign of Elizabeth there was a rather close connexion between Puritanism and the ‘trade’.²

X. *The Borough and the Church.*

The loss of the Churchwardens’ Accounts prior to the year 1617³ has deprived us of a valuable source of information respecting the religious changes in Stratford, such as is supplied by those of St. Nicholas’s Church, Warwick.⁴ The Church Ale at Stratford was held at Easter time, and was presided over by the Vicar. The retiring wardens presented their account, and new wardens were elected—two for the Borough and two for the rest of the Parish. Sidesmen were also chosen, and surveyors of the highways, in each case two for the Borough and two for the rest of the Parish. From time to time the Churchwardens and electing parishioners made a levy for the repair of the Church and other extraordinary expenses. Very occasionally, as in the matters of the receipt and payment of the Tithes and of the tenure of the Churchyard, their authority trespassed on that of the Borough Council. As a rule there seems to have been harmony between the Churchwardens and the Chamberlains, and those who filled the one office not unfrequently, but not simultaneously, filled the other.⁵

¹ State Papers Dom., Henry VIII.

² In Warwick the Swan was kept by Barnaby Holbage, an active supporter of Job Throgmorton the ‘Martinist’, and the Crown by John Greene, another leader of Protestant discontent, and uncle of Shakespeare’s kinsman, the ‘Puritan knave’, Thomas Greene. In Stratford Robert Perrott and Robert Salisbury, brewers, were advanced Protestants, and John Sadler, owner of the Bear, seems to have been of their party.

³ *Vestry Minute Book*, ed. by Rev. G. Arbuthnot.

⁴ *Churchwardens’ Accounts of the Parish of St. Nicholas, Warwick, 1547–1621*, transcribed and ed. by Richard Savage.

⁵ See *Vestry Minute Book*.

The belfries, like the chancels, suffered under the Puritan régime of Edward VI and demanded attention under Queen Mary. At St. Nicholas's, Warwick, the expenditure on the bells was light in Edward's reign and heavy in the first years of his successor. Among the items in 1554 is, 'to Coles of Snitterfield for his painstaking to come into the parish to give counsel to the filing of the third quarter bell, and spent on him and upon one that did fetch him, 7d.'¹ This was Henry Coles, the Snitterfield blacksmith, whose goods were appraised in 1560 by Richard Shakespeare.² At Stratford in the year 1552, at the end of Edward's reign, two of the Church bells being cracked were sold for the maintenance of the Bridge,³ and five bells from the dismantled Abbey of Hailes were purchased from the Crown at the cost of £75.⁴ On the other hand, £61, if not £70, was received from the sale of further old bells to Adrian Quyny, Thomas Dickson *alias* Waterman, George Whateley, and others. The Vicar, Roger Dyos, contributed 20s. and the late subwarden of the College, Edward Alcock,⁵ who died Vicar of Wootton Waven in 1557, gave 8s. Alderman William Smith, farmer of the College tithes, presented the Account, showing a heavy adverse balance, near the close of Mary's reign on 15 February, 155⁷/₈.⁶

The bells thus placed were those familiar and dear to Shakespeare, as in the *repeated* description of human fellowship :

Orlando. If ever you have looked on better days,
If ever been where bells have knolled to church . . .

Duke Senior. True is it that we have seen better days,
And have with holy bell been knolled to church.⁷

¹ *Churchwardens' Accounts*, p. 14.

² See further, p. lviii.

³ Survey of the Goods of the Gild (*Miscellanea of Queen's Remembrancer*).

⁴ 'Given and granted by the King's letters patent to Henry Hoskyns esquire and Thomas Watson gent., for the bells of the late monastery of Hailes in the County of Gloucester by them alleged to be delivered to the town of Stratford upon Avon in the County of Warwick by force of warrants from the Lord Treasurer of England, which bells being in number five amount in weight to xvijm iiijc iib' (*Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society Transactions*, xii, p. 113).

⁵ He made his will 12 August, 1557, and his goods were appraised on 29 October (*Notes and Queries*, 13 November, 1920, p. 382 f.).

⁶ See p. 79.

⁷ *As You Like It*, II. vii. 113-14, 120-1.

The Chamberlains had the care of the bells at the Chapel, the great bell and the little bell, which served for the clock, for summons to Council meetings and sermons, for the alarm of fire, for the passing of the dying, and the burial of the dead. Shakespeare heard them often enough, as a schoolboy and as a resident at New Place. The great bell tolls through his poems and plays, from Sonnet LXXI,

‘the surly sullen bell
Give warning to the world that I am fled’;

to the burden ‘Ding-dong’ of Ariel’s song in *The Tempest*.¹

XI. *The Accession of Queen Elizabeth.*

One of those pardoned at the Coronation of the new Queen on 15 January, 1559, was Alderman Jeffreys of Sheep Street. He was a staunch Catholic, had been Bailiff in the first year of Mary, and during her reign had been guilty of actions which made it advisable to seek the royal clemency. He was forgiven everything committed before 1 November, 1558, except what might be of a treasonable nature, on payment of 2*s.* 8*d.*² The same day, Coronation Day, William Smart, the Protestant Schoolmaster, who was in Holy Orders and therefore forbidden to marry under Mary, took unto himself a wife, Katherine Lewis. On 1 February John Shakespeare sued a neighbour for debt, Matthew Bramley, who was in the leather trade and lived in Rother Market. The case came up again on the 15th, when Shakespeare incurred the usual penalty of 2*d.* for not following his suit. Apparently he declined to prosecute in consequence of the illness of Bramley’s wife, who died, and was buried on the 22nd. In the interval between the 1st and 22nd February there was a change of Steward. Master Roger Edgeworth made his last signature as *Senescallus* on 1 February, and his successor, Master William Court, made his first on 20 February. Edgeworth was also Steward of Warwick, where he resided.

¹ i. ii. 402 f.

² Lord Willoughby de Broke’s MSS.

INTRODUCTION

William Court *alias* Smith, who was presumably a Protestant, lived in Alveston parish on the south bank of the Avon. He had acted frequently as attorney in the Court of Record, once, on 29 July, 1556, on behalf of Thomas Siche of Armscote against John Shakespeare. He had a son William, aged nine, who was to become a lawyer.

John Shakespeare as Constable found his office by no means a sinecure. At the Court Leet of 14 April, 1559, cases of assault were numerous. Griffin ap Roberts, a Welshman and butcher, was fined for a fray on the serving-man of Francis Harbage and for using ‘opprobrious words’ to the Constables. Henry Rogers, butcher, and Robert Ensdale were fined for a quarrel ; also Robert Rogers and the Bailiff of Preston-upon-Stour. Badger, the tailor, was fined for a fray upon Fisher, the corviser ; John Lord, butcher, for a fray upon William Richardson’s servant ; and, more interesting, Morris, Master Combe’s man, for a fray upon Master Clopton’s man. Yet more interesting, Master Rafe Cawdrey the Alderman, late Bailiff, was fined for making a fray upon Alexander Webbe of Bearley, brother of Widow Arden of Wilmcote and brother-in-law of John Shakespeare.²

In the autumn Adrian Quyny was elected Bailiff. His colleagues were William Whateley, High Alderman ; John Taylor, John Shakespeare, William Tyler, and William Smith, haberdasher, Constables ; Humfrey Plymley and John Wheeler, Chamberlains ; Thomas Dickson *alias* Waterman, and Roger Greene, Tasters ; Richard Sharpe and William Butler, Serjeants-at-the-Mace ; William Trowt and Henry Featherston, Leather Sealers.³ The Serjeants, and in a less degree the Leather Sealers, were permanently, though *pro forma* annually, appointed. The rest were chosen more or less in succession and according to seniority, but there is no mistaking the Protestant complexion of this first body of officers elected in the new reign.

The advent at this moment of the third William Smith, the haberdasher, as distinguished from the Alderman the mercer, and the Principal Burgess the corviser, should be noted. He

¹ Court of Record Roll.

² See p. 94 and above, p. xxxi.

³ p. 101.

was a neighbour of John Shakespeare in Henley Street.¹ The new officers were sworn on 6 October. The minutes of this Court were witnessed by the Afferors—Richard Biddle, Lewes ap Williams, John Wheeler, William Tyler, and John Shakespeare. Symons wrote the names at the bottom of the page, on the right hand, and the Afferors attached their signature or mark. Biddle and Wheeler signed ; Lewes ap Williams, Tyler, and Shakespeare made their marks. Ap Williams's mark resembles a church-gable and possibly means Holy Church ; Tyler's consists of two concentric circles quartered by a cross and may signify the Trinity ; Shakespeare's is a glover's compasses and denotes, no doubt, 'God encompasseth us'.²

Eight days after the swearing-in of Adrian Quyny and his fellows the significant letter on page 101 was addressed to them by Sir Robert Throgmorton and Sir Edward Greville, complaining of their treatment of the Vicar, Roger Dyos. Salaries were paid half-yearly, at Lady Day and Michaelmas, and we gather from the letter that Dyos had received nothing since 29 September, 1558, the last pay-day under Mary. He evidently contemplated 'departure' when the magistrates wrote on 14 October, 1559, and when the Council were assured of it they gave him a portion of the amount claimed. He asked for £30 ; they paid him less than £20 ; and seventeen years afterwards he sued for and recovered the balance—£13 17s. 6d.³ This sum they had probably spent on Protestant preachers, and felt justified in deducting from the stipend of the Vicar, whom they had never wanted and whose services they considered to be dispensed with at Mary's death. Protestants, we may be sure, officiated in the interval between the 'departure' of Dyos and the appointment of a new Vicar, Master John Bretchgirdle, in January 1561.

¹ See further p. lii.

² Corrupted in a less religious age into 'Goat and Compasses' : as e.g. the sign of a public-house in the Euston Road, London.

³ For his action against the Corporation in Michaelmas Term 1576 see Chamberlains' Account 23 Jan. 157⁹ and Birthplace deeds no. 16.

XII. *John Bretchgirdle.*

The new Vicar was a native of Baguley in Cheshire and educated in that nest of Protestant heresy, the home of the ‘Christian Brothers’, Christ Church, Oxford. After taking his M.A. degree on 11 July, 1546, he returned, early in King Edward’s reign, to his native county to be perpetual curate and schoolmaster at Witton, near Northwich.¹ He was admitted to his difficult charge at Stratford-upon-Avon on 27 February, 156⁰. Nothing is said in the record of his investiture about Roger Dyos. The usual *per mortem* or *per resignationem* after *vacantis* is wanting. The late Vicar, it seems, had neither deceased nor resigned, but had taken his ‘departure’ because the Corporation had adopted the simple but effective expedient of withholding his ‘wages’.

For four years and four months John Bretchgirdle, unmarried, with a sister, perhaps two, to keep house for him, was head of the wide Stratford parish in the contentious days of transition from Roman Catholicism to Protestantism. The Prayer Book services were organized on Puritan lines, frescoes were whitewashed, stained glass was replaced by plain, and carvings were hacked. Feeling ran high. Cases of assault were again dealt with at the Court Leet of 4 May, 1561. John Ichiver, a yeoman of Packwood and a brewer in Stratford, living in his own house in Henley Street, a stirring active man and one of the Tasters of this year, was presented for a fray on John Bradshaw the currier; Thomas Dickson *alias* Waterman, of the Swan, was presented for a fray upon his brother Richard, and for a fray also on his brother-in-law, Edward Walford; Master John Grantham, the Vicar’s kinsman, was presented for drawing blood on Thomas Bates, and Thomas Bates was presented for drawing blood on a stranger of Birmingham; John Lane of Bridge Street, brother of Nicholas Lane of Bridge Town, was presented for a fray on one Tibbins of Langley; and Thomas Knight the younger, coverlet-weaver, son of Thomas Knight of Middle Row (next door to Burbage’s

¹ *Hibbert Journal*, July 1920 and April 1921.

tavern) was presented for drawing blood on a stranger in Edmund Barrett's house, the Crown Inn in Bridge Street.¹ The fine for reviling an officer was still kept at 20s. Henry Biddle, Lewes ap Williams, William Minske, and John Shakespeare acted as *Affeerors* and attached their marks to their names written at the end of the minutes by Richard Symons—a cross, the church-gable, a headless cross, and the glover's compasses—a more elaborate pair, again daintily drawn.

John Shakespeare had recently buried his father at Snitterfield. On the 10th February he took out letters of administration on exhibition of an inventory of his goods and chattels valued at £38 7s. od. In the bond father and son are described as of Snitterfield, and John is called *agricola*.² John retained for a few months an interest in his father's farm, and was held responsible for the condition of the hedges in October.³ About this time, Michaelmas 1561, his brother-in-law, Alexander Webbe, entered into possession. He brought with him from Bearley his wife Margaret (*née* Arden) and four young children—Anne, Robert, Elizabeth, and Mary. Two more children, Edward and Sarah, were born to him at Snitterfield.⁴ These boys and girls were first cousins of William Shakespeare, and of special interest to him as living in his father's and grandfather's old home. There is evidence of friendship between the John Shakespeares and the Webbes.

On 3 October, 1561, John Shakespeare was sworn Chamberlain of the Borough of Stratford with John Taylor, the shearman of Sheep Street, as his senior colleague. John Taylor was his old fellow Constable of 1558–60. The oath they took was very much as follows :

'We shall be faithful and true officers unto our master the bailiff, diligent of attendance, at all times lawful, obedient to his commandments and ready to do his precepts. We shall

¹ See p. 116. John Ichiver and Thomas Dickson *alias* Waterman became Principal Burgesses (p. 130).

² Worcester Probate Registry, *Testamenta Vetusta*.

³ View of Frankpledge at Snitterfield, 1 Oct. 1561.

⁴ Snitterfield Register, Baptisms. For Alexander Webbe see p. 93, and above, p. xlvi.

INTRODUCTION

improve the livelihood belonging to the commonalty of this town to the most behoof of the same, and the tenements thereof we shall well and sufficiently repair during our office. And we shall well and truly charge and discharge ourself of all lands' rents belonging to this town and of all other money as shall come to our hands belonging unto the commonalty of this town, and thereof a true account shall yield up unto the auditors assigned in the end of our year, and all other things lawful that belongeth or pertaineth to our offices well and truly to our powers we shall do. So keep us God, the Holy Evangel and the contents of this Book !¹

The Bailiff whom John Taylor and John Shakespeare promised to serve was the Welshman, Master Lewes ap Williams, ironmonger in High Street. The Head Alderman was Master Robert Perrott the brewer. John Taylor's Account for the year Michaelmas 1561 to Michaelmas 1562 is a bare statement of receipts and expenses. It was presented and passed on 24 January, 1563. We have only the official copy made by Symons. It is signed at the back by John Taylor with his cross.²

In October 1562 John Shakespeare entered on his year as acting Chamberlain, his colleague John Taylor taking the passive part. Humfrey Plymley was Bailiff and Adrian Quyny Head Alderman.

On 2 December the Chamberlain took a second child, again a daughter, to the Parish Church to be christened. She was named Margaret, no doubt after her mother's sister, Margaret Webbe of Snitterfield. In April following the child died, and was buried on the 30th. Happily John Shakespeare was busy. He had to do with the felling of trees in the Churchyard (which had now a new sacredness for him), and the sawing and squaring of the trees for repairs at the Vicar's House and Chapel and the erection of a pinfold.

John Bretchgirdle's residence was overhauled—the central chimney was rebuilt, the roof retiled, wood-work renewed, and

¹ The form at Leicester.

² Unfortunately two names to which crosses are attached have been cut or worn off.

the ground-floor clayed and sanded—at an outlay of £6 15s. 5d. It was perhaps during the ‘reparations’ that the Vicar took the lease of a small house in Church Street, at a rent of 8s. per annum. The pinfold was erected in Tinkers’ Lane on land belonging to the Almshouse, and a rent of 8d. a year was henceforth paid to the inmates. The Protestantizing of the Chapel was in hand and ‘images’ had been ‘defaced’ when the energetic Chamberlain’s term of office expired in October. Not coming under episcopal jurisdiction, the Gild Chapel had been left *in statu quo*, probably through the influence of the Cloptons and William Bott. It was not spared under the auspices of John Shakespeare. When the frescoes were discovered under the whitewash in 1804, some were found in nearly a perfect state, but in the chancel ‘many parts, especially the crosses, had been evidently mutilated by some sharp instrument through the ill-directed zeal of our early Reformers’.¹

On 6 October, 1563, when George Whateley was sworn Bailiff and Roger Sadler Head Alderman, new Chamberlains were appointed in the persons of William Tyler and William Smith the haberdasher. John Shakespeare, however, was requested or allowed to continue the work he had begun, and he served as acting Chamberlain for the next year. He concluded the reformation of the Chapel, taking down the rood-loft, and providing seats for the minister and the clerk, and perhaps a communion-‘board’.² The officiating minister here was not Bretchgirdle nor his Curate, but the Schoolmaster, William Smart.

John Shakespeare made his Account with John Taylor for 1562-3 on 10 January, 156 $\frac{3}{4}$.³ Among the items is, ‘payd to

¹ Merridew’s *Coventry Guide*, p. 103.

² See *The Churchwardens’ Accounts of St. Nicholas, Warwick* (Richard Savage). The Account for 1553 contains—‘Itm payd ffor the workemanshyp & nalles ffor the Commuon tabull & ffor the settes yt the vycar & his prest & the clarke dos or did sytt in—xvij^d’ (p. 11); ‘Itm reseuyd ffor olde bordes whyche were off the tabull off the altare—xij^d’ (p. 10). The change of tense indicates the accession of Mary in July. Then comes the Account of 1558 with ‘ffor defassyng off Images—vj^d, ffor settynge up off a seate—xvj^d, ffor Jeines & nalles to the same seate—vij^d’ (p. 26).

³ pp. 126-9.

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Shakspeyr for a pece [of] timber iij^s.¹ At a Council meeting on 26 January Symons notes in his minutes that the Chamber is found in arrearage and is in debt unto John Shakespeare £1 5s. 8d.² From time to time the public-spirited Chamberlain advanced money for work in hand.³ On Wednesday, 26 April, he took his third child and first son, William, to be baptized, as we learn from the entry in Bretchgirdle's register :

1564 April 26 *Gulielmus filius Johannis Shakespeare.*

We need not look far for the godfather. He was probably John Shakespeare's neighbour in Henley Street, William Smith the haberdasher.⁴ The two men had much in common, were about the same age, and lived within a few yards of each other for half a century. They began business about the same time ; were engaged in occupations which at more than one point met ; were colleagues on the Borough Council ; had been Constables together, and were now fellow Chamberlains ; were men of enterprise and ambition and independence of judgment, and not infrequently opposed to the powers in being, and had sons who became well to do and gentlemen. In support of the identification it may be noted that whereas John Shakespeare's eldest son was named *William*, William Smith's eldest son was named *John*.

XIII. *The Plague.*

In the summer of 1564 plague broke out in Stratford. It came from Havre, and was probably brought by the Earl of Warwick's soldiers into the Midlands. It broke out in Leicester in June, where it was promptly isolated. An act of the Council there on 30 June forbade those 'visited' to go abroad within a space of two months after a death in their house under a penalty of £5. The same summer the epidemic raged in Coventry. *Hic incepit pestis* are the words written by John Bretchgirdle against the entry in his register of the burial

¹ p. 128.

³ pp. 139, 148, 150.

² p. 130.

⁴ p. xlvi.

on 11 July of Oliver Gunn, apprentice to Thomas Gethen *alias* Dege, a weaver in the High Street of Stratford. Gethen was doubtless a foreigner, probably a refugee from Flanders. He lived in the house next but one to Ely Street, which is now the Garrick Inn. His wife Joanna, who may have nursed the boy and was the second victim, was buried on 20 July. From 1 January to 20 July there were 22 burials. From 20 July to the 31st there were 16. In August there were 35, in September 84, in October 58, in November 26, and in December 18. Households perished, mostly of the poorer folk, but some well-to-do families suffered lamentably.¹ The Town Clerk, Richard Symons, lost two sons and a daughter. The Court of Record suspended its sittings during August and September. The Borough Council met at least once in the Gild Garden—which under John Shakespeare's Chamberlainship had been secured for their use, with its orchard and dovecote, old walnut-tree, seats and bowling-green. ‘At the Hall holden in our Garden,’ runs the minute of 30 August, ‘money was paid towards the relief of the poor’—the sufferers, that is, from the pestilence. John Shakespeare was present, so was William Smith the haberdasher. They were both assessed at a shilling. Richer men paid more, poorer men less.²

The Town Clerk was not rated, and the minutes are not in his hand. That very day he buried a son and a daughter.³ Further levies were made at halls held on 6 and 27 September, varying from 18*d.* to 4*d.* and 12*d.* to 4*d.*, John Shakespeare paying on each occasion 6*d.* At a fourth levy, made on 20 October, he paid 8*d.* The minutes of these and subsequent meetings are in the handwriting of the Steward or Symons's deputy.⁴ Symons did not return to his duties until 15 February, 1565.

John Bretchgirdle had a terrible time, and John Shakespeare's hands as acting-Chamberlain were very full. The Vicar buried a sister, Cicely Bretchgirdle, on 14 March 1564, shortly before

¹ *Notes and Queries*, 2 April, 1921, pp. 262–5.

² p. 130.

³ Johannis is a slip for Ricardi in the entry of the burial of the son, Cuthbert (*Register*, p. 11).

⁴ p. 131.

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the Plague appeared. Rafe Hilton, his curate,¹ lost three children in October and November. Bretchgirdle was over-worked, and probably ill. John Shakespeare again and again paid for clerical assistance. His Account, presented late (doubtless because of the pestilence) on 21 March, 1565, shows the following items :

‘Paid to Master Vicar £1 7s. od., paid for a priest’s board and his drinkings at the Swan, 11s. 6d., paid for going for John Tong’s brother [David Tong] 2s., paid to the preacher £2 10s. od., paid to the same preacher £1, paid to Master Vicar 6s. 8d., paid to Thomas Waterman [*alias* Dickson, of the Swan] £2 13s. 4d.’²

Perhaps through the clergy who stayed at the Swan, and people who sought their services or charity, the plague reached the inn and carried off two step-daughters of Thomas Dickson, Alice Burbage and Joyce Burbage, buried on 9 November and 8 December. Other entries in John Shakespeare’s Account are to be noted :

‘Received of Master Smith £2 10s. od., more of Master Smith £2 10s. od., more of Master Smith £2 10s. od.; received of Master Walford £4 0s. od., of Master Walford for Wilmecote [tithe] £1 6s. 8d.’³

This was tithe money, which the energetic Chamberlain was properly getting into his hands. Master Smith, the Alderman, farmer of the College tithes, buried in the Plague time, on 3 September, his sister-in-law, Mistress Elizabeth Watson, sister to John Watson, the future Bishop of Winchester. Her decease, apparently, was not due to the pestilence, for the Smith household was a large one and no other member died.

At election time in September, when the Plague was at its height, there was difficulty, as we may understand, in getting a Bailiff. Nominations were made on the 6th—John Wheeler for Bailiff, Lewes ap Williams for Head Alderman, William

¹ Apparently such. He was deprived as a married priest in Mary’s reign, when he was so poor that his wife was guilty of the charge of being a hedge-breaker and tearing and carrying away of Nichol’s hedge in Greenhill Street end, 1 Oct. 1557 (p. 73). He seems to have recovered his post under Bretchgirdle.

² See p. 140 f.

³ p. 138 f.

Smith, haberdasher, and William Tyler for Chamberlains. John Shakespeare, to his great credit, again undertook the duties, which were strenuous and perilous, of the acting Chamberlainship. John Wheeler felt unequal to the position of chief officer and magistrate of the Borough at that time and declined to serve. His name, nevertheless, was sent to the Earl of Warwick and was by him approved.

The resolution passed on the 27th September, with its interesting signatures and marks, will be found on pages 132-3 and the Illustration. John Wheeler duly appeared on the 29th, according to the terms of the resolution, and pleaded with such success that he was let off with a fine of £10, on the understanding presumably that he served as Bailiff the year after (1565-6). Richard Hill, whose honesty and virtue are celebrated on his monument in the Church, stepped into the breach and was made Bailiff. That week, from 27 September to 4 October, there were nineteen burials in the churchyard.

XIV. *John Brownsword.*

The School was doubtless closed for a considerable period, and the Master probably devoted himself to parish work in aid of the Vicar. At any rate, Smart had ceased to be Master at Lady Day 1565, when his successor, John Brownsword, was appointed. John Brownsword was an old pupil of Bretchgirdle at Witton, and a poet of some distinction. He is mentioned by Francis Meres in *Palladis Tamia*, 1598.¹ Among his poems are three addressed to his Master—one produced while he was a boy at Witton; the second composed at Poynton soon after his leaving Witton, when he may have been chaplain and tutor in Lady Warren's household at Poynton Park, about the beginning of 1560; and the third written at Wilmslow, shortly before Christmas, 1560. They contain scraps of biography and are full of respect and affection for Bretchgirdle. At the

¹ ‘These Englishmen being Latin poets, Walter Haddon, Nicholas Carr, Gabriel Harvey, Christopher Oaklond, Thomas Newton with his *Leland*, Thomas Watson, Thomas Campion, Brunswerd, and Willee have attained good report and honourable advancement in the Latin Empire’ (*Comparative Discourse*).

very time of Bretchgirdle's presentation to the Stratford vicarage Brownsword was appointed Master of the school at Macclesfield, January 1561. He was at Warwick, teaching boys at the old Gild Hall (subsequently called Leicester's Hospital), from Michaelmas 1564 to Lady Day 1565.

On Sunday, 1 April 1565, he signed an agreement with Richard Hill, Bailiff, and the Burgesses of Stratford, to

'serve in their Free School as a good and diligent schoolmaster ought to do for the term of two years in consideration of the sum of £20 yearly and his dwelling-house'.

To John Shakespeare as Chamberlain fell the duty of bringing him and his wife and goods from Warwick and putting his dwelling-house in order.¹ In his Account are items for tiles, laths, nails, slate-pins, lime, sand, eaves' poles, and carriage of four loads of timber for work in the Chapel and School and for tiling the Schoolmaster's House.² Apparently the old Schoolhouse, with the chamber over it, was converted into a residence for Master and Mistress Brownsword, and the upper story of the Gild Hall, the 'Over Hall', was made a School-house. Hence the memorandum on the flap of the old Rent Roll, 'Master John Brounswerd geveth xij^d towarde ye makynge of ye schole'.³

The Vicar's House and the Schoolmaster's House were thus side by side in the Chapel precincts. After five years master and pupil were together again, almost under one roof, happy in each other's company and probably looking forward to many years of fellowship and co-operation. But within three months Bretchgirdle was dead. The Plague, we may believe, had been too much for him. On 20 June, 1565, he made his will, and next day was buried within the Parish Church.

Bequests of books show his interest in education and his strong Protestant principles : *Unio Dissidentium* (the source of so

¹ *Hibbert Journal*, April 1921. See p. 143.

² pp. 149-52.

³ p. 115. In 1634 the Vicar, Thomas Wilson, complained, in a bill in Chancery, that the Corporation had 'neglected the erecting and setting-up of the New Schoolhouse as by the King's special direction and declaration in his Highness' letters patents appointed' (*Misc. Doc.* viii. 303). See p. 19.

much trouble to the Christian Brothers at Oxford in 1528) went to an old fellow-student at Christ Church; *Musculus upon Mathew and Homiliae Nauseae* to 'Master Brownsword, Schoolmaster of Stratford'; *Eliot's Library of Cooper's Castigation* 'to the common use of the scholars of the Free School of Stratford'; *Virgil* and *Horace* to a godson, and others to friends and pupils. Gifts of books to the sons, and of 12*d.* each to the step-daughters, of Master William Smith the mercer point to close friendship between the Vicar and the Alderman's household, and suggest that he was tutor to the boys.¹

XV. *William Bott.*

Extensive changes took place in the Council in the years 1557–65. We miss from the list of 30 August, 1564,² Aldermen Harbage,³ Biddle,⁴ Burbage,⁵ and Morse,⁶ and Principal Burgesses Daniel Phillips,⁷ William Minske,⁸ and Richard Biddle.⁹ In the place of the former, Richard Hill, John Wheeler, and Humfrey Plymley had been promoted to the Aldermanship, while no less than ten new Principal Burgesses had been appointed—John Taylor, John Shakespeare, John Sadler (tenant of Stratford Mill on the Avon and owner of the Bear, son of Alderman Roger Sadler), John Ichiver, William Tyler (a butcher in Sheep Street), William Smith haberdasher, John Bell (a tanner in Chapel Street), William Brace (a draper and brewer in Chapel Street),¹⁰ Thomas Dickson *alias* Waterman (son of the late Alderman and host of the Swan), and Thomas Dyer (otherwise Barber, of Rother Street, who had married the widow of Alderman Harbage and succeeded to his skinner's business). And over the heads of the new Principal Burgesses, so far as we know without previous service as a Principal Burgess, William Bott had been created an Alderman. Two months later, on 20 October, 1564,

¹ *Hibbert Journal*, July 1920, and *Notes and Queries*, 9 April, 1921.

² p. 130. Cf. p. 62.

³ Buried 17 April, 1561.

⁴ Buried 11 Sept. 1564.

⁵ Buried 3 April, 1558.

⁶ Buried 19 Oct. 1558.

⁷ Buried 30 Sept. 1558.

⁸ Living 5 Oct. 1560 (p. 108).

⁹ Died between 15 Nov. 1559 and 19 June, 1560.

William Tyler had taken his place among the Aldermen, and Robert Salisbury (a brewer in Church Street) among the Principal Burgesses. On 9 May, 1565, William Bott departed in the manner of his advent, concluding his meteoric appearance on the Council by his expulsion.

William Bott was well known to Richard and John Shakespeare at Snitterfield, where he resided at the Wold and was in request as an appraiser of the goods and supervisor or witness of the wills of his neighbours. He was appointed overseer with Richard Maids (a highly respected fellow parishioner) of the will of Hugh Porter. A list of the debtors of Hugh Porter, drawn up 26 November, 1557, contained the following :

‘Richard Shakespeare of Snitterfield oweth unto the same 40s. The executors of Robert Arden of Wilmecote and Thomas Stringer of Bearley oweth unto the same for Robert Arden £5 2s. 3d. William Bott of Snitterfield £30, for the which sum of £30 William Bott hath to mortgage to the forenamed Hugh Porter all the land within the town of Hatton.’

The executors of Robert Arden were his daughters, Alice and Mary, the second being in November 1557 wife of John Shakespeare in Henley Street. Hugh Porter’s will was proved in the Court of Canterbury on 7 February, 1560, and to Bott and Porter’s natural and loved daughter, Eleanor, fell the task of distributing the residue of his estate ‘in charitable deeds and works, for the wealth of his soul and all Christian souls’. Thus again Bott had the handling of money that was not his own. With Richard Shakespeare and others, he made on 21 April, 1559, the inventory of the goods of Roger Lynecombe, and on 1 June, 1560,¹ the inventory of the goods of Henry Cole, the Snitterfield blacksmith.

Bott, who was probably a lawyer, became William Clopton’s agent. William Clopton, champion of the Catholic party in the district (as against William Lucy of Charlecote),² must have

¹ *Notes and Queries*, 15 January, 1921, p. 46; above, p. xliv.

² Latimer, Parker Society, ii. 381–3; *Athenaeum*, 18 April, 1857 ('Report of William Lucy and other Commissioners,' c. September 1537).

felt keenly the transition from Mary to Elizabeth. He had taken part in Mary's Coronation feast on 1 October, 1553, serving the wafers at the Queen's table and receiving for his fee 'all the instruments as well of silver or other metal for making of the same wafers, and also all the napkins and other profits thereunto appertaining'.¹ On 31 January, 1559, rather more than a fortnight after the Coronation of Elizabeth, he buried his wife in the Parish Church of Stratford; and less than a year later, on 4 January, 1560, he signed his will and died, leaving instructions that he should be interred in the same place.² Their bodies were laid, no doubt, in what is sometimes called 'the Clopton Chapel', in the east end of the north aisle, behind the handsome monument built for himself by Sir Hugh Clopton. There is nothing to mark the grave. Any intention the heir, William Clopton, may have cherished of erecting a tomb was probably prevented by the difficult years that followed for himself and his children.

William Bott witnessed the will, and on the removal of the heir from New Place to Clopton House he left Snitterfield to live in New Place. In virtue, no doubt, of his position he acquired the seat on the Aldermanic bench. On 30 August, 1564, he was called upon to contribute more than any member of the Council, including the Bailiff, to the relief of the plague-stricken. The garden where they met was a few yards from his door.³ His signature occurs in the order respecting John Wheeler on 27 September. He attended again on 20 October and 20 December, 1564, and, for the last time, on 15 February, 1564.⁴ On 9 May, failing to 'come to his answer' for opprobrious words of the Council and of the Bailiff, Richard Hill, he was 'expulsed'.⁵ Symons hated him and roundly declared that he was dishonest.⁶ Young Clopton found reason to complain of his dealings when, having sold him New Place, he went abroad, some time after 30 September, 1563, with his wife and children. Bott, he said, took

¹ Claims at the Coronation: Rutland Papers, Camden Society, p. 120.

² P. C. C. 17 Mellershe. ³ p. 130. ⁴ pp. 131, 135. ⁵ pp. 142, 143.

⁶ *Notes and Queries*, 29 January, 1921, p. 84; *Misc. Doc.* v. 184.

advantage of his absence to withhold the rents, and even forge a deed relating to his property. William Underhill of Idlicote, a lawyer, cousin of Edward Underhill the 'hot gospeller', won the gratitude of 'poor men' in and around Stratford by his resistance to the unscrupulous agent. 'No poor man might dwell by him if Master Underhill did not assist him',¹ was the testimony of John Walsingham of Exhall.²

On 4 July, 1565, John Shakespeare was elected Alderman in Bott's stead; and the same day the number of the Principal Burgesses was filled up by the appointment of Nicholas Barnhurst and Gilbert Bradley.³ Nicholas Barnhurst was a yeoman and woollen-draper in Sheep Street, husband of Alderman Quyny's step-daughter, Elizabeth Bainton.⁴ Gilbert Bradley was a further addition to the Henley Street contingent on the Council, which included also John Shakespeare, John Wheeler, William Smith haberdasher, and John Ichiver. He was a near neighbour of John Shakespeare and, like him, a glover and whittawer. In 1566 he probably stood godfather at the christening of John Shakespeare's son, Gilbert, the Poet's younger brother. The new Alderman and the two new Principal Burgesses were sworn on 12 September, 1565,⁵ from which day John Shakespeare was Master Shakespeare among his fellow townsmen.

¹ John Harper of Henley *v.* William Bott of Stratford-upon-Avon in the Star Chamber, 1564.

² See p. 73, and above, p. xxxi.

³ p. 146.

⁴ *Notes and Queries*, 13 November, 1920, p. 384.

⁵ p. 147.

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

THE CHARTER OF INCORPORATION

Granted by King Edward VI 28 June, 1553

Edwardus **Sextus** Dei gracia Anglie Francie et Hibernie
Rex fidei Defensor et in terra ecclesie Anglicane et Hibernice
Supremum caput **Dmibus** ad quos presentes littere per-
uenerint salutem **Cum** Burgus de Stratford' super Avon'
in Comitatu nostro Warr' sit Burgus antiquus in quo
quidem Burgo quedam Gilda antehac fundata et dotata fuerit
cum diuersis terris tenementis et possessionibus de quorum
reditibus reuentionibus et proficuis quedam Libera Scola
Grammaticalis pro educatione et eruditione puerorum et
Juuenum ibidem manutenta et sustentata fuerit & quedam
Domus elemosinaria ibidem de viginti et quatuor pauperibus
inibi sustinendis similiter manutenta et sustentata fuerit et
quidam magnus pons lapideus vocatus Stratford Bridge situatus
et constructus super et trans aquam et riuulum de Avon' iuxta
Burgum predictum de tempore in tempus manutentus et re-
paratus fuerit Quequidam Gilda iam dissoluitur ac terre tene-
menta et possessiones eiusdem ad manus nostras nuper
deuenerunt ac in manibus nostris iam existunt Et cum In-
habitantes Burgi de Stratford' predicta a tempore cuius memoria
hominum non existit habuerunt et gauisi fuerunt diuersas
franchesias libertates liberas consuetudines Jurisdicciones priui-
legia exoneraciones et quietancias ratione et pretextu Gilde
predicte ac ratione et pretextu cartarum concessionum &
confirmacionum per progenitores nostros Magistris et Con-
fratribus Gilde predicte et aliter ex antiquo factarum que ijdem
Inhabitantes Burgi predicti modo minime habere et gaudere
queant pro eo quod Gilda predicta dissoluitur ac pro alijs causis

iam nobis apparentibus quorum pretextu veresimile est quod Burgus predictus et gubernacio inde ad peiorem statum de tempore in tempus deueniant si remedium inde cito non prouideatur Super quo Inhabitantes Burgi de Stratford' predicta humiliiter nobis supplicauerunt¹ quod nos fauorem et graciā nostrā abundantem eis pro melioracione Burgi predicti ac gubernacionis inde et pro sustentacione grandium onerū que ipsi de tempore in tempus sustinere et supportare cogantur et debeant Et quod nos eosdem Inhabitantes in corpus corporatum et politiquum facere redigere et creare dignaremur **Sciatis** quod nos petitioni predicta gracie annuentes de gracia nostra speciali ac ex certa sciencia et mero motu nostris volumus ac pro nobis heredibus et successoribus nostris concedimus eisdem Inhabitantibus Burgi de Stratford' super Avon' predicta quod Burgus ille sit liber Burgus de cetero imperpetuum et quod Burgus ille de vno Balliuo et Burgensibus de cetero sit et erit corporatus in re facto et nomine imperpetuum ac Burgum illum corpus corporatum et politiquum de se imperpetuum de vno Balliuo et Burgensibus realiter et ad plenum erigimus facimus ordinamus et creamus pro nobis heredibus et successoribus nostris imperpetuum per presentes Et quod Inhabitantes eiusdem Burgi nunc et pro tempore existentes de cetero sint et erunt vnum corpus corporatum et vna Communitas perpetua in re facto et nomine per nomen Balliui et Burgensium Burgi de Stratford' super Avon' habeantque successionem perpetuam Et quod ipsi per idem nomen sint et erunt persone habiles et in lege capaces ad habendum perquirendum recipiendum et possidendum terras tenementa libertates franchises et hereditamenta sibi et successoribus suis in feodo et perpetuitate et ad omnia et singula alia facta et res facienda Et per idem nomen placitare et implacitari respondere et responderi defendere et defendi valeant et possint in quibuscumque Curijs et locis et coram quibuscumque Judicibus siue Justiciarijs vel alijs personis in omnibus et singulis actionibus querelis causis materijs et demandis cuiuscumque sint generis seu nature eisdem modo et forma

¹ This is the only record of the Petition. The town had evidently suffered since the dissolution of the Gild and College in 1548.

prout alij ligei nostri persone habiles et in lege capaces placitare
 et implacitari respondere et responderi defendere et defendi
 valeant et possint Et quod habeant et habebunt Commune Sigil-
 lum pro causis et negotijs suis quibuscumque agendis seruitur
Et Volumus ac per presentes pro nobis heredibus et suc-
 cessoribus nostris ordinamus et concedimus quod dictus Burgus
 de Stratford' super Avon' ac circuitus et procinctus inde et
 Jurisdiccionis eiusdem de cetero extendent et protendent ac exten-
 dere et protendere valeant et possint tam in longitudine et
 latitudine quam in circuitu ad tales et consimiles ac huiusmodi
 bundas metas et limites ad quales et quas ac prout dictus Burgus
 de Stratford' super Avon' ac circuitus et procinctus eiusdem ac
 Jurisdiccionis inde a tempore cuius contrarij memoria hominum
 non existit vel aliquo tempore postea vel antea extenserunt et
 protenserunt ac extendere et protendere consueuerunt Et quod
 bene liceat et licebit Balliuo et Burgensibus pro tempore
 existentibus eiusdem Burgi de Stratford' super Avon' et suc-
 cessoribus suis perambulacionem seu perambulaciones inde facere
 pro vera et meliori cognicione inde habenda tociens quociens eis
 placuerit seu eis necessarium fieri videbitur et hoc absque
 aliquo breui seu warranto proinde a nobis heredibus vel suc-
 cessoribus nostris in hac parte quoquo modo impetrando seu
 proseguendo **Et Volumus** ac per presentes ordinamus et de
 vberiori gracia nostra pro nobis heredibus et successoribus
 nostris concedimus quod semper de cetero sint et erunt in
 Burgo predicto quatuordecim de melioribus ac magis probiorib-
 us et discrecioribus inhabitantibus eiusdem Burgi qui voca-
 buntur Aldermanni Burgi illius quiquidem Aldermanni alias
 quatuordecim de melioribus ac magis discrecioribus alijs inhabi-
 tantibus Burgi predicti sibi eligeré et assumere ac associare
 valeant et possint qui vocabuntur Capitales Burgenses eiusdem
 Burgi Et quiquidem Aldermanni et Capitales Burgenses facient
 et erunt ac vocabuntur commune Consilium Burgi predicti pro
 omnibus rebus materijs causis et negotijs Burgum predictum ac
 regimen et gubernacionem inde tangentibus seu concernentibus
 Et quiquidem Aldermanni et Capitales Burgenses siue maior
 pars eorundem pro tempore existentes de tempore in tempus

potestatem et auctoritatem habeant et habebunt annuatim et quolibet anno in mense Septembris ante festum Sancti Michaelis Archangeli annuatim eligere et nominare vnum de seipsis qui erit Ballius Burgi predicti pro vno anno integro Et quod ipse sic electus et nominatus ad Officium Balliui Burgi predicti pro vno anno integro prefectus et debito modo iuratus fuerit Et si et quandocumque aliquis huiusmodi Ballius infra vnum annum postquam ad Officium Balliui Burgi predicti ut prefertur prefectus et iuratus fuerit obire vel ab Officio suo amoueri contigerit quod tunc et tociens bene liceat et licebit Aldermannis et Capitalibus Burgensibus predicti Burgi pro tempore existentibus siue maior pars eorundem alium de seipsis in Ballium Burgi predicti eligere et preficere Et ille sic electus et prefectus officium Balliui Burgi predicti habeat et exerceat durante residuo eiusdem anni Et sic tociens quociens casus sic acciderit **Prouiso** semper quod in eleccione et nominatione Balliui predicti Burgi pro tempore existentis assensus et Consensus Charissimi Consanguinei et Consiliarij nostri Johannis¹ Ducis Northumbrie modo Domino Burgi predicti ac heredum ac assignatorum suorum Dominorum Burgi predicti pro tempore existentium habeatur priusquam ille sic electus ad Officium illud Juratus fuerit **Ct** volumus ac per presentes ordinamus et concedimus quod quandocumque contigerit aliquem Aldermannorum Burgi predicti pro tempore existentium obire vel a loco et Officio suo Aldermanni amoueri quod tunc et tociens bene liceat et licebit alijs Aldermannis eiusdem Burgi adtunc superuiuentibus vel remanentibus vel maioribus partibus eorundem vnum de Capitalibus Burgensibus Burgi predicti in Aldermannum et ad officium Aldermanni Burgi predicti eligere nominare et preficere loco ipsius morientis vel amoti existentis Et sic de tempore in tempus ac tociens quociens casus sic acciderit Et quod quandocumque et quocienscumque contigerit aliquem de Capitalibus Burgensibus Burgi predicti pro tempore existentibus obire vel a loco et officio suo Capitalis Burgen sis amoueri quod tunc et tociens bene liceat et licebit Aldermannis et Capitalibus Burgensibus Burgi predicti adtunc

¹ John Dudley.

superuiuentibus vel remanentibus vel maiori parti eorundem vnum alium de Inhabitantibus Burgi predicti meliorem ac magis probiorem et descreciorem in Capitalem Burgensem et ad officium Capitalis Burgensis Burgi predicti eligere nominare et preficere loco ipsius sic morientis vel amoti existentis Et hoc tociens quociens casus sic acciderit **Et Volumus** ac per presentes ordinamus et pro nobis heredibus et successoribus nostris concedimus quod in Burgo predicto de cetero sint et erunt duo Officiarij qui vocabuntur Seruientes ad Clauam pro execucione processuum et mandatorum ac aliorum negotiorum in Burgo predicto de tempore in tempus exequendorum et peragendorum quiquidem Seruientes aceciam Constabularij ac omnes alij Officiarij et Ministri necessarij Burgi predicti de tempore in tempus et de anno in annum ad officia sua eligentur et proficientur per Aldermannos et Capitales Burgenses Burgi predicti pro tempore existentes vel per maiorem partem eorundem **Et Volumus** ac per presentes ordinamus et pro nobis heredibus et successoribus nostris concedimus quod de tempore in tempus bene liceat et licebit Aldermannis et Capitalibus Burgensibus Burgi predicti siue maiori parti eorundem pro tempore existentibus facere condere ordinare et stabilire bona et salubra statuta ordinaciones & constituciones tam pro meliore regimine et gubernacione Ballui Aldermannorum et Capitalium Burgensium ac aliorum Officiariorum et Inhabitancium Burgi predicti pro tempore existentium quomodo sese habeant et gerent in officijs et negotijs suis pro bono publico et communi vtilitate Burgi predicti quam pro meliori preseruacione et disposicione terrarum tenementorum possessionum et reuentionum Balliuo et Burgensibus Burgi predicti et successoribus suis datorum concessorum vel assignatorum aut imposterum dandorum concedendorum vel assignandorum ac alijs Burgum predictum ac causas et negotia inde tangentibus seu concernentibus quequidem statuta ordinaciones et constituciones inuiolabiliter obseruari volumus & precipimus per presentes **Et Sciat** quod assignauimus nominauimus ordinauimus et constituimus ac per presentes assignamus nominamus ordinamus et constituimus dilectum nobis Thomam Gilbert de Stratford' super Avon' predicta fore et esse

primum et modernum¹ Ballium dicti Burgi de Stratford' super Avon' Et quod in Officio Balliui eiusdem Burgi erit et manebit vsque ad festum Sancti Michaelis Archangeli proximo futurum et in eodem festo quoisque aliis ad officium illud prefectus et Juratus fuerit si idem Thomas Gilbert tam diu vixerit **Acetiam** assignauimus nominauimus ordinauimus et constituimus ac per presentes assignamus nominamus ordinamus et constituimus dilectos nobis Ricardum Lorde Hugonem Reynoldes Willelmum Smythe Thomam Phillipes Thomam Wynfeld Johannem Jeffreys Thomam Dixson Georgium Whatley Henricum Biddell Willelmum Whatley Robertum Moors Robertum Pratt Thomam Gilbert et Adrianum Quenye Inhabitantes dicti Burgide Stratford' super Avon' fore et esse primos et modernos Aldermannos dicti Burgi de Stratford' super Avon' quamdiu sese bene gerant in officio illo **Et Sciatq[ue]** quod nos cupientes et volentes quod dicta Domus Elemosinaria in dicto Burgo de Stratford' super Avon' de cetero manuteneatur et sustineatur Et quod libera Scola Grammaticalis pro eruditione et educatione puerorum et Juuenum ibidem de cetero habeatur et manuteneatur prout antehac vsitatum fuit et vt grandia onera Burgi predicti ac eidem Burgo et Inhabitantibus inde annuatim et de tempore in tempus incumbentia de cetero melius sustineantur et supportentur **Ideo** de gratia nostra speciali ac ex certa scientia et mero motu nostris dedimus et concessimus ac per presentes damus et concedimus prefato Thome Gilbert modo Balliuo dicti Burgi de Stratford' super Avon' et Burgensibus eiusdem Burgi et successoribus suis omnia illa mesuagia molendina domos edificia cotagia terras tenementa horrea gardina shopas cellaria solaria cameras aulas vacua funda aisiamenta redditus reuersiones seruicia et hereditamenta nostra quecumque cum eorum pertinentijs vniuersis modo vel nuper in separalibus tenuris siue occupacionibus Ricardi Quynye Henrici Samwell Ricardi Smythe Johannis Norcot Johannis Nicholles Willelmi Palmer Willelmi Gilbert Nicholai Taylour Johannis Bell Thome Wynefeld Thome ffylle Roberti Waynewright Ricardi Symondes Georgij Whateley Thome Whateley Thome Burford Roberti Bright Johannis

¹ Stratford had Bailiffs long before the date of this charter.

Longe¹ Willelmi Smythe Thome Walter Johannis Wotton
 Johannis Jeffreys Thome Dyxson Willelmi Rogers Thome Bell
 Thome Commander Danielis Phillyppes Christoferi George
 Henrici Bedell Willelmi Whateley Hugonis Reynoldes Ricardi
 Symondes Alicie Thompson Willelmi Richardson Georgij
 Quynye Johannis Archer² Henrici Bedell Roberti Lewes
 Johannis Luscum Henrici Ingram Roberti Sampson Thome
 Dylvyng Johannis Page Ricardi Penryth Willelmi Asshewyke
 Thome Yate Roberti Honnyet Ricardi Lorde Ricardi Machyn
 Oliueri Jackson Willelmi Fydbyn Nicholai Eylson alias Wilson
 Georgij Grene Jacobi Anderton Ricardi Tentur Willelmi
 Stephyns Willelmi Wynefelde Willelmi Byll Johannis Nevell
 Edmundi Robertes Willelmi Robyns Oliueri Lightsote Thome
 Wynefelde Radulphi Caudrye Johannis Gorst Ricardi Colley
 Radulphi Bate Thome White Johannis Butler Jacobi Hawicke
 et Egidij Joanes vel assignatorum suorum seu assignatorum
 eorum alicuius situata iacentia et existentia in churchestrete
 Chappell strete Shepestrete Bancrofte High strete Elestrete
 Rutherstrete Grenhill Woodstrete Henley strete Wyndeford³
 Burgestrete et Middle Rewe in Stretford' super Avon' in pre-
 dicto Comitatu nostro Warr' ac alibi vbi cumque in Stratford'
 super Avon' predicta que fuerunt parcelle possessionum et
 reuentionum nuper Gilde de Stratford' super Avon' in predicto
 Comitatu Warr' modo dissolute Ac omnia illa redditus et
 seruicia nobis spectancia et pertinencia ac nuper parcellas
 possessionum et reuentionum dicte nuper Gilde existentia ac
 exeuntia de terris et tenementis modo vel nuper Henrici
 Samwell Johannis Combes Willelmi Ponder alias Sponer
 Johannis Mongley alias Monyley Johannis Lyttleton Alicie
 Parrett Ricardi Bromeley Ricardi Sadler et Thome Dyckson
 in Stratforde super Avon' predicta Aceiam omnes decimas
 nostras garbarum bladorum granorum et feni ac alias decimas
 nostras quascumque annuatim et de tempore in tempus cres-
 centes prouenientes siue renouantes in Wylmecote in dicto
 Comitatu nostro Warr' dicte nuper Gilde de Stratford' super
 Avon' dudum spectantes et pertinentes ac parcellas possessionum

¹ Tonge.² Anchor.³ Wyndesor.

inde nuper existentes Necnon totum illud mesuagium et tene-
 mentum nostrum cum pertinentiis modo vel nuper in tenura
 siue occupacione Ricardi Pace situatum et existens in Shottery
 in dicto Comitatu nostro Warr' dicte nuper Gilde dudum spec-
 tans et pertinens ac parcellam possessionum inde nuper existens
 Ac totum illud croftum terre nostrum cum pertinentiis modo
 vel nuper in tenura siue occupacione Johannis Elyattes iacens
 et existens in Dodwell' in dicto Comitatu nostro Warr' dicte
 nuper Gilde dudum spectans et pertinens ac parcellam posses-
 sionum inde nuper existens Aceciam totum illud mesuagium et
 tenementum nostrum cum pertinentijs modo vel nuper in
 tenura siue occupacione Henrici Samwell situatum et existens
 in Burgetowne in dicto Comitatu nostro Warr' dicte nuper
 Gilde dudum spectans et pertinens ac parcellam possessionum
 inde nuper existens Necnon totum illud croftum terre et pasture
 nostrum cum pertinentijs modo vel nuper in tenura siue occupa-
 cione Ricardi Sharpe iacens et existens in Burgetowne predicta
 eidem nuper Gilde de Stratford' super Avon' predicta dudum
 spectans et pertinens ac parcellam possessionum inde nuper
 existens Aceciam totam illam nuper Capellam vocatam le Guylde
 Chappell in Stratford' super Avon' predicta dicte nuper Gilde
 dudum spectantem et pertinentem Ac totum Campanile eidem
 nuper Capelle adiacens Ac totum plumbum super dictam nuper
 Capellam et Campanile existens ac omnes campanas ¹ in eodem
 Campanile existentes Necnon omnia et singula alia mesuagia
 molendina domos edifica terras tenementa prata pascuas pasturas
 decimas horrea stabula columbaria ortos pomaria gardina aquas
 aquarum cursus gurgites proficua commoditates emolumenta et
 hereditamenta nostra quecumque cum eorum pertinentijs vniuer-
 sis in Stratford' super Avon' Wylmecote Shotterye Burgetowne
 Dodwell' et Drayton' predictis ac alibi vbiicumque dicte nuper
 Gilde de Stratford' super Avon' predicta dudum spectantia et
 pertinentia aut vt partes uel parcellas possessionum seu reuen-
 tionum eiusdem nuper Gilde antehac habita cognita accepta vsi-
 tata seu reputata existentia Aceciam omnes et omnimodos boscos
 subboscos et arbores nostras quascumque de in et super pre-

¹ There were two bells, the Great Bell and the Little Bell.

missis crescentes et existentes ac totam terram fundum et solum eorundem boscorum subboscorum et arborum ac reuersionem et reuersiones quascumque omnium et singulorum premissorum et cuiuslibet inde parcellae Necnon redditus et annualia proficia quecumque reseruata super quibuscumque dimissionibus et concessionibus de premissis seu de aliqua inde parcella quoquo modo factis Adeo plene libere et integre ac in tam amplis modo et forma prout aliquis Magister et Confratres dicte nuper Gilde de Stratford' super Avon' aut aliquis alius siue aliqui alij premissa aut aliquam inde parcellam antehac habentes possidentes aut seisiti inde existentes eadem aut aliquam inde parcellam vñquam habuerunt tenuerunt vel gauisi fuerunt habuit tenuit vel gauisus fuit seu habere tenere vel gaudere debuerunt aut debuit Et adeo plene libere et integre ac in tam amplis modo et forma prout ea omnia et singula premissa ad manus nostras ratione vel pretextu cuiusdam Actus de diuersis Cantarijs Collegijs Liberis Capellis Gildis et Fraternitatibus dissoluendis et determinandis ac alijs in Parlimento nostro tento apud Westmonasterium anno regni nostri primo inter alia editi et prouisi aut ratione vel pretextu alicuius alterius Actus Parliamenti seu quocumque alio modo iure seu titulo deuenerunt seu deuenire debuerunt ac in manibus nostris iam existunt seu existere debent vel deberent **Quequidem** mesuagia molendina decime terre tenementa ac cetera omnia et singula premissa cum pertinentijs modo extenduntur ad clarum annum valorem quadraginta sex librarum trium solidorum duorum denariorum et vnius obuli **Habendum** tenendum et gaudendum predicta mesuagia terras tenementa molendina cotagia decimas ac cetera omnia et singula premissa cum eorum pertinentijs vniuersis prefatis Balliuo et Burgensibus dicti Burgi de Stratford' super Avon' et successoribus suis imperpetuum **Tenendum** de nobis heredibus et successoribus nostris vt de manerio nostro de Estgrenewiche in Comitatu nostro Kancie per fidelitatem tantum in libero et communi socagio et non in capite pro omnibus redditibus seruicijs et demandis quibuscumque **Et** **Vlterius** de ampliori gracia nostra damus ac per presentes concedimus prefatis Balliuo et Burgensibus dicti Burgi de

Stratforde super Avon' omnia exitus redditus reuentiones et proficua predictorum mesuagiorum terrarum tenementorum molendinorum decimarum ac ceterorum omnium et singulorum premissorum cum eorum pertinentijs vniuersis a festo Sancti Michaelis Archangeli vltimo preterito hucusque prouenientium siue crescentium **Habendum** eisdem Balliuo et Burgensibus ex dono nostro absque compoto seu aliquo alio proinde nobis heredibus vel successoribus nostris quoquo modo reddendo soluendo vel faciendo **Et volumus** ac per presentes ordinamus quod Domus Elemosinaria in dicto Burgo de Stratford' super Avon' per Ballium et Burgenses eiusdem Burgi et successores suos de cetero continuabitur cum viginti et quatuor pauperibus personis hominibus et mulieribus in eadem continuo sustinendis Et quod Ballius et Burgenses Burgi predicti pro tempore existentes soluent et deliberabunt cuilibet earundem pauperum personarum qualibet ebdomada quatuor denarios Et quod ijdem pauperes habeant mansiones et habitaciones suas in dicta Domo Elemosinaria ac omnia terras tenementa ac alia commoditates emolumenta et proficua que vltra dictos quatuor denarios cuilibet eorum qualibet ebdomada antehac habuerunt et habere consueuerunt **Et volumus** ac per presentes ordinamus quod Ballius et Burgenses Burgi predicti et successores sui de tempore in tempus imperpetuum habeant et habebunt ordinem et gubernacionem dicte Domus Elemosinarie ac pauperum in eadem manentium **Et volumus** ac per presentes ordinamus quod de cetero sit et erit vna Libera Scola Grammaticalis pro eruditione et educatione puerorum et Juuenum in dicto Burgo de Stratford' super Avon' imperpetuum continuanda Et quod Ballius et Burgenses eiusdem Burgi et successores sui soluent annuatim Pedagogo eiusdem Scole pro tempore existenti viginti libras legalis monete Anglie pro vadio et stipendio suo ad festa Natiuitatis Sancti Johannis Baptiste Sancti Michaelis Archangeli Natalis Domini et Annunciaconis Beate Marie Virginis per equales porciones soluendas Et quod eleccio et nominacio Pedagogi Scole predicte pro tempore existentis ad dictum Ducem Northumbrie heredes et assignatos suos Dominos dicti Burgi de Stratford' super Avon' pro tempore existentes

spectabit et pertinebit **Et volumus** ac per presentes pro nobis heredibus et successoribus nostris concedimus prefatis Balliuo et Burgensibus dicti Burgi de Stratford' super Avon' et successoribus suis quod de cetero imperpetuum habeant et teneant ac habere et tenere valeant et possint vnum Marcatum qualibet die Jouis singulis septimanis dicto Burgo de Stretford' super Avon' ac duas Nundinas ibidem annuatim tenendas et custodiendas videlicet vnas Nundinas ibidem tenendas annuatim in festo Exaltacionis Sancte Crucis¹ ac in vigilia et crastino eiusdem festi Ac alias Nundinas ibidem tenendas annuatim in festo Inuencionis Sancte Crucis² et crastino eiusdem festo vnam Curia Pedis Puluerisati³ ibidem durante tempore earundem Nundinarum simulcum stallagio picagio finibus amerciamentis ac omnibus alijs proficuis commoditatibus et emolumentis qui buscumque de huiusmodi Marcato Nundinis et Curia Pedis Puluerisati prouenientibus accidentibus emergentibus seu contingentibus ac cum omnibus libertatibus et liberis consuetudinibus ac [sic] huiusmodi Marcatum et Nundinas pertinentibus seu spectantibus **Et volumus** ac per presentes concedimus prefatis Balliuo et Burgensibus dicti Burgi de Stratford' super Avon' et successoribus suis quod ipsi de cetero imperpetuum habeant et teneant ac habere et tenere valeant et possint vnam Curiam de Recordo in Burgo de Stratford' super Avon' predicta qualibet secunda septimana videlicet a quindecim diebus in quindecim dies coram Balliuo eiusdem Burgi pro tempore existente tenendam de placitis querelis et accionibus personalibus de debitibus compotis transgressionibus convencionibus contractibus detencionibus et contemptibus infra dictum Burgum de Stratford' super Avon' et Jurisdiccionem inde emergentibus seu emergendis contingentibus seu contingendis Dum tamen huiusmodi debita dampna seu cause non attingunt ad summam triginta librarum Et quod huiusmodi placita querele et acciones ibidem audientur et determinentur per tales et consimiles processus per quales et prout legi nostre consonum fuerit et in

¹ 14 September.² 3 May.³ A Court of Pye Powder held in the market where those with 'dust on their feet' may obtain immediate justice.

aliqua alia Curia de Recordo de huiusmodi placitis querelis et
 actionibus antehac vsitatum et consuetum fuit seu fieri debeat
 Et quod Seruientes ad Clauam dicti Burgi de Stratford' super
 Avon' pro tempore existentes omnia Juratas panella inquisiciones
 attachiamenta precepta mandata warranta Judicia processus ac
 alia quecumque necessaria facienda causas predictas aut alias
 causas [infra] Villam et Burgum de Stratford' super Avon' pre-
 dicta tangentia seu concernentia faciant et exequantur prout eis
 preceptum fuerit iuxta legis exigentiam ac prout in consimili-
 bus casibus antehac vsitatum fuit seu fieri debeat in aliqua alia
 Curia de Recordo Et quod Balliuus et Burgenses dicti Burgi de
 Stratford' super Avon' et successores sui habeant et habebunt
 omnia fines amerciamenta et alia proficua de et in Curia pre-
 dicta aut racione vel pretextu eiusdem Curie emergentia acci-
 dentia seu contingentia **Et volumus** ac per presentes pro
 nobis heredibus et successoribus nostris Concedimus prefatis
 Balliuo et Burgensibus dicti Burgi de Stratford' super Avon' et
 successoribus suis quod de cetero habeant et habebunt returna
 omnium breuium et preceptorum nostrorum heredum et suc-
 cessorum nostrorum et execucionem eorundem infra Burgum
 de Stratford' super Avon' predicta per Vicecomitem nostrum
 heredum et successorum nostrorum Comitatus Warr' exequen-
 dorum Et quod Vicecomes noster heredum et successorum
 nostrorum Comitatus Warr' pro tempore existens aut Balliui
 vel alij Ministri sui in Burgum de Stratford' predicta quois-
 modo non ingrediantur nec se ibidem intromittant ad aliquod
 faciendum seu exequendum quod ad officium Vicecomitis
 pertineat ibidem faciendum seu peragendum **Acetiam** volu-
 mus et ordinamus quod dictus Balliuus et vnu predictorum
 Aldermannorum per predictos Aldermannos et Burgenses vel
 per minorem¹ partem eorundem annuatim eligendus de cetero
 sint et erunt Justiciarij Pacis Burgi predicti de et pro omnibus
 que ad Justiciam Pacis pertinent inquirendis audiendis et de-
 terminandis infra precinctum metas limites bundas et perambu-
 laciones Burgi predicti emergentibus in tam amplis modo et
 forma prout alij Justiciarij Pacis in aliquo Comitatu regni nostri

¹ 'majorem' on Patent Roll more correctly.

Anglie facere possint et consueuerunt **Et volumus** ac per presentes ordinamus et concedimus prefatis Balliuo et Burgensibus dicti Burgi de Stratford' super Avon' et successoribus suis quod Balliuus eiusdem Burgi pro tempore existens de cetero de tempore in tempus sit et erit Eschaetor Coronator Elemosinarius nostri heredum & successorum nostrorum ac Clericus Marcati nostri heredum et successorum nostrorum infra dictum Burgum de Stratford' super Avon' Et quod faciat et exequatur omnia et singula que ad officia Eschaetoris Coronatoris Elemosinarij et Clerici Marcati spectant et pertinent ibidem facienda et peragenda Et quod nullus alijs Eschaetor Coronator Elemosinarius seu Clericus Marcati nostri heredum vel successorum nostrorum Burgum de Stratford' super Avon' predicta quoismodo ingrediatur vel ingrediantur seu se ibidem intromittat vel intromittant ad aliquod ibidem faciendum seu peragendum quod ad officia Eschaetoris Coronatoris Elemosinarij seu Clerici Marcati pertinent ibidem faciendum et peragendum **Et ulterius** de ampliori gracia nostra concessimus et licentiam dedimus prefatis Balliuo et Burgensibus dicti Burgi de Stratford' super Avon' et successoribus suis quod ipsi terras tenementa redditus reuerciones possessiones et hereditamenta vsque ad annum valorem ducentarum marcarum¹ acquirere possint et habere sibi et successoribus suis de quacumque persona seu quibuscumque personis ea eis vel successoribus suis dare legare vendere concedere seu assignare volente seu volentibus Et huiusmodi persone seu personis quod ipse huiusmodi terras tenementa annuitates redditus possessiones et hereditamenta vsque ad annum valorem predictum eisdem Balliuo et Burgensibus et successoribus suis dare concedere vendere assignare et legare valeat et valeant Habendum et tenendum sibi et successoribus suis sicut predictum est imperpetuum similiter licenciam dedimus et concessimus specialem **Et** hoc absque aliquo alio breui ad quod dampnum² seu aliquo alio mandato regio aut aliquibus inquisitionibus superinde capiendis et in Cancellarium nostram retornandis et absque aliquibus alijs breuibus seu litteris regijs

¹ £133 6s. 8d.² To the Sheriff, to inquire the 'damage of such gift'.

patentibus in hac parte prosequendis fiendis seu habendis Statuto de terris et tenementis ad manum mortuam non ponendis aut aliquo alio statuto actu ordinacione seu prouisione in contrarium facto edito seu ordinato non obstante **Prouiso** tamen semper ac per presentes volumus et ordinamus quod hee littere nostre patentibus nec aliqua concessio sentencia vel clausula in eisdem contenta aut specificata minime se extendant ad detrimentum diminucionem seu derogacionem quarumcumque libertatum [sic] priuilegiorum preheminencium commoditatum [sic] concessionum aut hereditamentorum quorumcumque predicti Ducis Northumbrie aut heredum suorum vel eundem Ducem aut heredes suos quocumque modo concernentium vel tangentium aut alios quoscumque antehac Dominos predicti Burgi et Manerij de Stratford' super Avon' predicta **Ac vterius** de ampliori gratia nostra dedimus et concessimus ac ex certa sciencia et mero motu nostris per presentes damus et concedimus prefatis Balliuo & Burgensibus dicti Burgi de Stratford' super Avon' et successoribus suis omnes et omnimas decimas granorum et feni prouenientes crescentes seu renouantes in Villis et Campis de Olde Stratforde Welcombe et Busshopston' in dicto Comitatu nostro Warr' modo vel nuper in tenura Johannis Barker¹ ac nuper Collegio de Stratford' super Avon' in dicto Comitatu nostro Warr' dudum spectantes et pertinentes ac parcellas possessionum inde existentes Aceciam omnes et omnimas decimas lane agnellorum et alias minutas et priuatas decimas ac oblaciones et alteragia quecumque prouenientia crescentia seu renouantia infra totam Parochiam de Stratford' super Avon' predicta et dicto nuper Collegio de Stratford' super Avon' dudum spectantia et pertinentia ac modo vel nuper in tenura Willelmi Barker Generosi vel assignatorum suorum existentia Ac reuersionem et reuersiones quascumque

¹ Anthony Barker, Warden of the College, leased the Tithes of Old Stratford, Welcombe and Bishopton and of Stratford Borough, as well as the Privy Tithes of the whole parish, to his cousin, William Barker of Sonning, on 7 Sept. 1544 for 92 years. The Privy Tithes had been disposed of to John Barker, before the date of the Charter. John was probably Anthony's brother and executor; and William was probably the Fellow of the Middle Temple, another executor. See Anthony's Will, 4 Aug. and 15 Nov. 1551, proved June 1553 (P.C.C. 14 Tashe).

predictarum decimarum et cuiuslibet inde parcellae Ac redditus reuenciones et alia annualia proficia quecumque reseruata super quibuscumque dimissionibus seu concessionibus de predictis decimis seu de aliqua inde parcella factis reseruata **Quicquidem** decime oblaciones et alteragia modo extenduntur ad clarum annum valorem triginta quatuor librarum **Habendum** tenendum et gaudendum predictas decimas oblaciones et alteragia cum eorum pertinentijs vniuersis prefatis Balliuo et Burgensibus dicti Burgi de Stratford' super Avon' et successoribus suis imperpetuum **Tenendum** de nobis heredibus et successoribus nostris vt de manerio nostro de Estgrenewich in comitatu Kancie in libero et communi socagio per fidelitatem tantum et non in capite pro omnibus alijs redditibus seruicijs et demandis quibuscumque proinde nobis heredibus vel successoribus nostris quoquo modo reddendis soluendis vel faciendis **Accediam volumus** ac ex certa sciencia et mero motu nostris ac auctoritate nostra regia suprema et ecclesiastica qua fungimur pro nobis heredibus et successoribus nostris per presentes concedimus prefatis Balliuo et Burgensibus quod ijdem Balliuus et Burgenses et successores sui habeant teneant gaudeant et in vsus suos proprios conuertere valeant et possint predictas decimas oblaciones et alteragia et quamlibet earundem parcellam adeo plene et integre ac in tam amplis et consimilibus modo et forma prout nuper Gardianus dicti nuper Collegij de Stratford' super Avon' aut aliquis vel aliqui predecessorum suorum iure nuper Collegij illius predicta decimas oblaciones et alteragia aut aliquam inde parcellam habuit tenuit vel gauisus fuit ac in vsus suos proprios conuertebat habuerunt tenuerunt vel gauisi fuerunt ac in vsus suos proprios conuertebant seu habere tenere gaudere ac in vsus suos proprios conuertere potuit aut potuerunt debuit aut debuerunt ratione aut modo quocumque Aliquo statuto actu ordinacione prouisione prohibicie constitucione seu consuetudine in contrarium antehac habitu facto edito ordinato seu prouiso aut aliqua alia re causa seu materia quacumque in aliquo non obstante **Damus** eciam pro consideracione predicta ac ex certa sciencia et mero motu nostris per presentes concedimus prefatis Balliuo

et Burgensibus dicti Burgi de Stratford' super Avon' omnia et singula exitus redditus reuenciones et proficua predictarum decimarum et ceterorum premissorum a festo Annunciaconis Beate Marie Virginis vltimo preterito hucusque prouenientia siu[e] crescencia Habendum eisdem Balliuo et Burgensibus ex dono nostro absque compoto seu aliquo alio proinde nobis heredibus vel successoribus nostris quoquo modo reddendo soluendo vel faciendo **In quorum** omnium consideracione volumus et ordinamus ac predicti Balliuus et Burgenses dicti Burgi de Stratford' super Avon' pro se et successoribus suis concedunt per presentes quod ipsi et successores sui annuatim et de tempore in tempus imperpetuum soluent seu solui faciant Vicario Perpetuo in Ecclesia Parochiali de Stratford' super Avon' predicta per nos per presentes incorporando ac per predictum Ducem Northumbrie heredes et assignatos suos Dominos eiusdem Burgi de Stratford' super Avon' nominando et successoribus suis Vicarijs in eadem Ecclesia viginti libras per annum ad festa Sancti Michaelis Archangeli et Annunciaconis Beate Marie Virginis per equales porciones soluendas nomine cuiusdam annualis pencionis in dotacionem Vicarie sue assignande et appunctuande Aceciam quadraginta solidos per annum vltra dictas viginti libras pro decimis eiusdem pencionis siue dotacionis Vicarie predicte annuatim per eundem Vicarium et successores suos nobis heredibus et successoribus nostris ad Curiam Primitiarum et Decimarum nostrarum ad festum Natalis Domini soluendos Aceciam quod ijdem Balliuus et Burgenses et successores sui Balliuus et Burgenses dicti Burgi de Stratford' super Avon' predicta soluant seu solui faciant annuatim et de tempore in tempus imperpetuum Magistro siue Pedagogo Scole nostre in Stratford' super Avon' predicta per nos per presentes similiter erigendo et incorporando ac per predictum Ducem heredes et assignatos suos Dominos dicti Burgi de Stratford' super Avon' de tempore in tempus nominando et successoribus suis Magistris siue Pedagogis eiusdem Scole viginti libras ad dicta festa Sancti Michaelis Archangeli et Annunciaconis Beate Marie Virginis per equales porciones soluendas Et quod ijdem Balliuus et Burgenses immediate post sigillationem harum

litterarum nostrarum patencium facient seu fieri causabunt sufficientes seperales donaciones et concessiones tam predictis Vicario et Magistro siue Pedagogo et eorum alteri et successoribus suis et successorum eorum alterius [sic] de convenientibus domibus habitaculis siue mansionibus infra dictam Villam de Stratford' super Avon' pro seperalibus habitacionibus et mansionibus eorundem Vicarij et Magistri siue Pedagogi et successorum suorum imperpetuum per cartam eorundem Balliui et Burgensium sub Sigillo suo Communi fiendam et Sigillandam Necnon quod ijdem Balliuus et Burgenses Burgi de Stratford' super Avon' predicta et successores sui Balliuus et Burgenses eiusdem Burgi sumptibus suis proprijs annuatim de tempore in tempus imperpetuum inuenient dabunt soluentque Capellano Presbitero in dicta Ecclesia Parochiali de Stratford' super Avon' annuatim imperpetuum deseruituro ac dicto Vicario assistenti decem libras legalis monete Anglie pro stipendio et salario suo ad dicta festa Sancti Michaelis Archangeli et Annunciaconis Beate Marie Virginis per equales porciones soluendas Et vt omnia et singula premissa debitum sortire valeant effectum ac ffirmis Jacturis fundamenti imperpetuum duraturum in suo robore et virtute durent et permaneant imperpetuum Alterius volumus ac authoritate nostra regia suprema et ecclesiastica qua fungimur pro nobis heredibus et successoribus nostris per presentes concedimus quod in Ecclesia Parochiali de Stratford' super Avon' predicta sit et erit Vicarius Perpetuus per predictum Ducem Northumbrie heredes et assignatos suos Dominos eiusdem Ville pro tempore existentes nominandus ac loci illius Ordinario et Diocesano presentandus Quicquidem Vicarius sic nominatus et presentatus nominabitur et erit Vicarius Perpetuus dicte Ecclesie de Stratford' super Avon' predicta Habeatque successionem perpetuam ipseque et successores sui loco Rectoris erit residenciam inibi faciat hospitalitatem fouebit et curam animarum Parochianorum ibidem geret ceteraque omnia faciet et exequetur que ad officium Rectoris siue Vicarij pertinere dinoscitur Volumus etiam et authoritate nostra predicta per presentes concedimus quod idem Vicarius et successores sui per nomen Vicarij Perpetui Ecclesie Parochialis de Stratford' super Avon' predicta

sint et erunt persone habiles et in lege capaces ad recipiendum et perquirendum sibi et successoribus suis Vicarijs Perpetuis eiusdem Ecclesie de predictis Balliuo et Burgensibus dicti Burgi de Stratford' super Avon' quendam annualem pencionem siue annuitatem viginti librarum per annum pro Vicaria sua inibi dotanda et quadraginta solidos per annum pro decima Vicarie predicte annuatim nobis heredibus et successoribus nostris vt prefertur soluendos cum clausula districcionis pro securitate solucionis eorundem annualium reddituum et eorum alterius fiende Et per idem nomen et sub eo nomine prosequi clamare et placitare ac implacitari defendere et defendi respondere et responderi in quibuscumque Curijs et locis regni nostri ac dominiorum jurisdiccionum et potestatum nostrorum heredum et successorum nostrorum quorumcumque in et super omnibus et singulis causis actionibus sectis debitibus demandis et querelis realibus personalibus et mixtis tam temporalibus quam spiritualibus et in omnibus alijs rebus causis et materijs qu[i]buscumque dictas annuales redditus pencias siue annuitates viginti librarum et quadraginta solidorum siue aliquam inde parcellam tangentibus siue concernentibus **Aceciam** volumus ac ex certa sciencia et mero motu nostris et auctoritate nostra regia suprema et ecclesiastica qua fungimur pro nobis heredibus et successoribus nostris per presentes concedimus prefato Vicario Perpetuo Ecclesie Parochialis Ville de Stratford' super Avon' predicta pro tempore existenti et successoribus suis Vicarijs Perpetuis eiusdem Ecclesie pro tempore existentibus quod idem Vicarius et successores sui habeant teneant vtantur et gaudeant ac habere tenere vti et gaudere possint et valeant in et per integrum Parochiam de Stratford' super Avon' tot talia tanta eadem huiusmodi et consimilia peculiares jurisdiccciones ¹ exemptions probaciones testamentorum Curias correcciones puniciones ac cetera iura ecclesiastica et spiritualia quecumque quot qualia quanta et que Gardianus dicti nuper Collegij de Stratford' super Avon' pro tempore existens aut aliquis vel aliqui predecessorum suorum aut aliquis alias siue aliqui alij habuit tenuit vsus vel

¹ The Vicar's Court was the cause of considerable friction with the Consistory Court of Worcester later.

gauisus fuit habuerunt tenuerunt vsi vel gauisi fuerunt seu habere tenere vti vel gaudere debuit aut debuerunt potuit aut potuerunt in predicta Parochia de Stratford' super Avon' et ceteris premissis aut in aliqua inde parcella racione aut modo quocumque **Ac ulterius** sciatis quod nos singulari ducti amore et affectu quo subditos regni nostri impuberis in dictum comitatum nostrum Warr' non parum prosequimur vt imposterum ab incunabulis politioribus imbuti litteris quam ante nostra tempora erat solitum cum ad prouectiorem deuenerint etatem eruditiores euadant sic nimirum existimantes Ecclesiam Christi Anglicanam cuius vices in terris immediate gerimus non minus in re litteraria doctis quam prudentia ad vniuersi regni nostri commodum ornari decorarie quandam Liberam Scolam Grammaticalem in dicta Villa de Stratford' super Avon' de uno Magistro siue Pedagogo tenore presencium realiter et ad plenum creamus erigimus¹ fundamus ordinamus facimus et stabilimus perpetuis futuris temporibus duraturam Et sic stabiliri et imperpetuum inuiolabiliter obseruari volumus et iubemus per presentes Et quod dicta Scola sic per nos fundata creata erecta et stabilita vulgariter the Kynges Newe Scole of Stratford vpon Avon imperpetuum vocetur nominetur et appelletur ac quod in eadem Scola erit Magister siue Pedagogus per predictum Ducem Northumbrie heredes et assignatos suos Dominos Burgi de Stratford' super Avon' predicta pro tempore existentes de tempore in tempus nominandus et appunctuandus Quiquidem Magister siue Pedagogus sic nominatus seu appunctuatus per nomen magistri siue Pedagogi Libere Scole de Stratford' super Avon' vocetur appelletur et nuncupetur ipsumque per idem nomen vocari et imperpetuum nuncupari volumus et iubemus per presentes **Aceciam** volumus quod idem Magister siue Pedagogus et successores sui Magistri siue Pedagogi dicte Scole de Stratford' super Avon' predicta habeant et habebunt successionem perpetuam et sint persone habiles et capaces tam ad recipiendum et perquirendum sibi et successoribus suis Magistris siue Pedagogis eiusdem Scole de predictis Burgensibus Ville de Stratford' super Avon' predicta quendam annualem redditum

¹ See *ante*, pp. 1, 10, and Introduction, p. lvi.

pencionem siue annuitatem viginti librarum per annum cum clausula districcionis pro securitate solutionis eiusdem quam eciam quecumque alia terras tenementa possessiones et hereditamenta de quibuscumque personis siue quacumque persona ultra dictum annuale redditum siue pencionem viginti librarum dummodo non excedent annum valorem viginti librarum per annum **Holumus** eciam ac pro nobis heredibus et successoribus nostris per presentes concedimus prefatis Balliuo et Burgensibus dicte Ville de Stratford' super Avon' quod ijdem Burgenses dare possint et concedere tam prefato Vicario Perpetuo dicte Ecclesie Parochialis Ville de Stratford' predicta et successoribus suis Vicarijs Perpetuis eiusdem Ecclesie predictos annuales redditus pencias siue annuitates viginti librarum per annum et quadraginta solidorum per annum ad¹ domum et mansionem conuenientem pro dicto Vicario et successoribus suis Vicarijs ibidem inhabitandam quam prefato Magistro siue Pedagogo dicte Scole nostre de Stratford' super Avon' et successoribus suis Magistris siue Pedagogis eiusdem Scole predictum annuale redditum pencionem siue annuitatem viginti librarum per annum ac domum et mansionem conuenientem pro predicto Magistro siue Pedagogo et successoribus suis Magistris siue Pedagogis ibidem inhabitandam cum clausula districcionis in omnibus et singulis premissis preconcessis per cartas suas seperales sub dicto Sigillo suo Communi conficiendas et sigillandas aut aliter quocumque modo et eidem Vicario et successoribus suis ac dicto Magistro siue Pedagogo et successoribus suis quod ipsi seperatim predictos seperales annuales redditus pencias siue annuitates modo et forma predictis de predictis Burgensibus capere et recipere possint et valeant licenciam dedimus et damus pro nobis et successoribus nostris Statuto de terris et tenementis ad manum mortuam non ponendis aut aliquo alio statuto siue ordinacione in contrarium facto non obstante **Et** vt predictus Vicarius et successores sui ac Magister siue Pedagogus predictus et successores sui habeant teneant et gaudeant predictos seperales annuales redditus pencias siue annuitates secundum formam et intencio-

¹ 'ac' on Patent Roll.

nem harum litterarum nostrarum patencium [Et] predicti Balliuus et Burgenses dicti Burgi de Stratford' super Avon' pro et in consideracione premissorum concedunt pro se et successoribus suis Balliuo et Burgensibus eiusdem Ville quod ipsi immediate et absque vlla dilacione post confeccionem et sigillationem harum litterarum nostrarum patencium facient seu fieri causabunt tam sufficientem donacionem et concessionem per cartam suam sub dicto sigillo suo Communi conficiendam et sigillandam prefato Vicario Perpetuo per predictum Ducem Northumbrie et heredes suos Dominos Ville predicte pro tempore existentes vt predictur nominando dicte Ecclesie de Stratford' super Avon' predicta et successoribus suis Vicariis Perpetuis eiusdem Ecclesie de predicto annuali redditu pensione siue annuitate viginti librarum ei in forma predicta soluendo et exeunte de premissis preconcessis cum clausula districcionis in eisdem quam sufficientem donacionem et concessionem similiter per cartam suam sub Sigillo suo Communi conficiendam et sigillandam prefato Magistro siue Pedagogo dicte Scole nostre de Stratford' super Avon' et successoribus suis Magistris siue Pedagogis eiusdem Scole de predicto annuali redditu viginti librarum exeunte de premissis preconcessis cum clausula districcionis in eisdem ei in forma predicta soluendo Statutis de terris et tenementis ad manum mortuam non ponendis aut aliquo alio statuto lege consuetudine prohibicione causa seu materia quacumque in aliquo non obstante **Saluis** tamen ac prefato Duci Northumbrie ac heredibus suis Dominis predicti Burgi de Stratford' super Avon' pro tempore existentibus omnino reseruatis presentacione nominacione donacione et concessione tam dicti Vicarij Perpetui dicte Ecclesie Parochialis de Stratford' super Avon' predicta et successorum suorum Vicariorum eiusdem Ecclesie quam nominacione et donacione predicti Magistri siue Pedagogi dicte Scole nostre dicte Ville de Stratford' super Avon' predicta et successorum suorum Magistrorum eiusdem Scole **At** saluis nobis heredibus et successoribus nostris omnino reseruatis decimis eiusdem Vicarie annuatim soluendis **Saluis** eciam simili modo reservatis primis fructibus eiusdem Vicarie per successores Vicarij predicti post hanc

vicem soluendis prout iustum est cum acciderit **Tolumus**
 eciam ac per presentes concedimus prefatis Balliuo et Burgensi-
 bus dicti Burgi de Stratford' super Avon' quod habeant et
 habebunt has litteras nostras patentes sub Magno Sigillo nostro
 Anglie debito modo factas et sigillatas absque fine seu feodo
 magno vel paruo nobis in Hanaperio nostro seu alibi ad vsum
 nostrum proinde quoquo modo reddendo soluendo vel faciendo
Co quod expressa mencio de vero valore annuo aut de certitu-
 dine premissorum siue eorum alicuius aut de alijs donis siue
 concessionibus per nos vel per aliquem progenitorum nostro-
 rum prefatis Balliuo et Burgensibus dicti Burgi de Stratford'
 super Avon' predicta ante hec tempora factis in presentibus in
 presentibus [*sic*] minime ferta existit Aut aliquo statuto actu
 ordinacione prouisione siue restricione inde incontrarium facto
 edito ordinato siue prouiso aut aliqua alia re causa vel materia
 quacumque in aliquo non obstante **In cuius** rei testimonium
 has litteras nostras fieri fecimus patentes **Teste** me ipso apud
 Westmonasterium vicesimo octauo die Junij anno regni nostri
 septimo. **Milsent**¹

per breue de Priuato Sigillo et de data predicta
 auctoritate Parliamenti

L.S.

Examinatum per H. Chawselde Irrotulatum
 in officio Johannis Hanbie Auditoris

[Endorsement] Ista carta placitatur et
 allocatur coram Domina
 Regina apud Westmona-
 sterium Termino Pasche
 anno regni Elizabethae
 Regine nunc secundo

} Rotulo primo
 inter Placita
 Regine.

¹ Officer of the Patent.

6 April, 1554

[COURT LEET.]

¹ Stratford' Curia lete ibidem tenta vj^{to} die aprilis primo
super aven' anno regine domine marie dei gratia anglie
francie et hibernie regine fidei defensatoris
ac in terris ecclesie anglicane et hibernice
Supremi Capitis.

Essonie² [Nil.]

xij Jur.	• Willm Smythe ³ Jur.	• george Whatley Jur.
	• + thome Wynfyld	+ Henricus byddyll
	• thome dicson Jur.	• thome gylbard Jur.
	{thome phyllyppes}	• Rob. mors Jur.
		{Willm vydkyn}
	• Rob. brat Jur.	• Willm mynske Jur.
	{Willm Whatley}	• Danyell phyllyppes Jur.
	{Radulph Cawdrey}	{Joh. burbage}
	adrean quyny	• fraunces harbage Jur.
	• laurence beynton Jur.	• Robert perott Jur.
	• Will. Smyth ⁴ Jur.	• george turnar Jur.
	• Ric. Harrenton Jur.	Ric Symons Jur.
	lewes vpp Willm. Jur.	
	Roger Sadler Jur.	

merc.⁵ {thomas wynfyld} adrean quyny (xij^d) Willm Rodjares
(vj^d) {frauncis harbadge} for havynge ther dogges vn-
lawfully goynge abrod in the Strettes & not moseled
Whearför they are amersed: & y^t all Suche tenauntes

¹ In the handwriting of Richard Symons the Town Clerk, who puts his name last. A dot marks attendance, a line through the name in the MS., indicated here by brackets, denotes absence, a cross indicates excuse for absence or departure. *Jur.* is *Juratus*, sworn. We must allow, however, for forgetfulness and oversight.

² *Essonie*, i. e. excuses for absence, as sickness or other just impediment.

³ Alderman Smith the mercer.

⁴ The corviser of Sheep Street.

⁵ *Merciamentum*, a fine. The figures after the names denote the fines.

- pen.*¹ dogges all altymez hear after So found in the falt ownars of the doges to forfeit for euery doge xij^d
- pen.* y^t euery tenaunt wⁱn the burrow kep in ther dogges by nyght aswell bond dogges as also lyttyll dogges & bytchis after ix of the cloke in peyne of euery offence to forfeit for euery person So beynge takyn in the fal[t]s xij^d
- merc.* thomas powell (iij^s iiiij^d) of Shatterey for revelynge as well ageynst m^r hye beyly as also ageynst other the quenes magestyey offeceres contrary to the order of the last lete Court Whearefor he ys amersyd: & y^t no person hearafter do revell ageynst eny offecer or offeceres in payne of euery offendour to forfeit & pay for euery defalt x^s & iij days ymprisoment wⁱout redempcyon ²
- merc.* Ric. Awnge (x^s) (& edmund barret (x^s)) for recevynge of ij woman strangers in {his} (ther housys) {or hyr hous} & ther brought to bedes of chylder contrary to thorder of the last lete court Whearfor {he} (they) standes amercyd
- merc.* {goodall for} goodall {x^s} {goodaell} (xx^d) in lyke Caes for recevence of a woman beynge brought to bed of chyld in his hous contrary to thorder of the {hous} court Whearfor he ys amercyd
- merc.* Roberte Healy {x^s} (xx^d) for receveinge of a woman beynge brought to bed of a chyld he ys amercyd
- peyne* & y^t no ynhabitaunt wⁱn Stratford hearafter receive eny woman to be brought to bed of chyld in his or ther hous or housses in peyne of euery offender to forfeit & losse xx^s & y^t to be payde wⁱout eny redempcyon ³
- pene* y^t ther be no tenaunt hearafter nor ther seruauntes ley eny muke in the Swyne stret in peyne of euery offendour to forfeit for euery defalt iij^s iiiij^d & iij days prisonment & y^t euery tenaunt in the Swynstret do from tyme [to tyme] kep cleane & Scour the gutteres of the Soyll in peyne of euery offender to forfeit & losse vj^s viij^d

¹ *poena*, penalty.² See Introduction, pp. xxi, xxviii.³ In the cases of Goodall and Healy the fines were greatly reduced.

- pene* & y^t euery the tenauntes or ther famly from hensfurthe do carry ther mucke to the common dunghylles appwynted or elles into meychyns yard in lyke peyne or in the gravell pyttes in chappell lone
- pene* & y^t no bochar ley ther garbages wthin the Sycuyt of the toune but y^t yt be carryd furthe after ix by the cloke in the evenyng in peyne of euery offender to forfeit for euery defalt vj^s viij^d
- pene* & y^t no person hearafter do bake eny kynd of bred & Syll the Same bred dwellynge wthin Stratford but only thos bacares whuche at this present tyme ar commen bacares but only Rob. Honyet elen commaunder & elisabethe Welles in peyne of euery offender to forfeit & losse for euery defalt xx^s
- pene* y^t no person dwellynge wthin Stratford bruyng aele to Syll Shall syll Staell aele by the pot forthe of hys hous in peyne of euery offender to forfeit for euery defalt xx^s
- pene* y^t no bruar shall syll furthe ale by the pot in peyne of euery offender to forfeit & losse for euery deffalt x^s
- orderes* & y^t & yf eny person or persones at eny tyme hear after be ammersyed in eny Sum of Sumes of money at the late Court yt ys ordeyned at this present Court y^t & yf eny eny [sic] amercyament do amount ouer & above iij^s iiij^d the hye beyly to have the thyrd part of the amercyament to hys offece the chamburlenes to the use of the chambur on other part & the sergeauntes the thyrd part to help to agment ther lyvynge
- pene* {& y^t ther shall no artyfecer of brasyares Stand in eny other place but only in the burge stret ther whear as the hye beyly shall appwynt in peyne of euery recevar consortores & abettorees of eny Suche person to forfeit & losse for euery offendore xx^s & y^t to be payd wthout eny redempcyon}
- pene* & y^t euery Sugarer from hensfurthe comynge to Stratford feyr shall Stand in no other place but only in the chappell Stret & the rent of the Standyng to be Seassyd by the hye beyly & hye alderman in peyne of

- euery of ther abettore or counceliores the contrary to
forfeft for euery defalt xl^s
- pene* & y^t the yron mongeres commynge to Stratford feyr for
the tyme of Stratford feyr do Stand in eny other place or
Stret but in the burge Stret (townes men only exceptyd)
in peyne of ther recevares & abettore to forfeft & losse
x^s a pece
- pene* & y^t all bacares y^t bake bred to Syll beynge Commen
bacares from hensfurthe shall bake & Syll iiij loves for
a penny ij loves for a penny & a loffe for a penny &
bultyd w^t a lauffull bulter & y^t they kepe thassyez in
peyne of euery offender to forfeft & loosse for euery
defalt v^s
- pene* & y^t ael brwares y^t brwe ale to Syll shall Syll from
hensfurthe newe ale vnder the hear syve beyng good &
wholsum for xvij^d y^e dossen xij galons to y^e dossen the
typlares to Syll clere ale & Staell for ij^d y^e galon & ij
galens of Small aell for a penny beynge good & whol-
sum & y^t the tasters do assay the aell beynge newe aele
befor the ale be tonnyd furthe in peyne of euery bruar
to forfeft & losse for euery defalt xl^s & y^t the bruar
gyve knowledge to the tasteres in lyk peyne of x^s
- pene* y^t the bochares beynge inhabutyng in Stratford shall
not Syll ther tallowe furthe of the toune of Stratford the
tounes men gevynge on half penny vnder the price of the
farenor in peyne of euery bochar to forfeft & losse ijⁱⁱ
- pene* & y^t euery tenaunt to Ryd the Stret of logges blokes &
tymbur & the muk hylles & as wel ther gutteres be for
ther Soylles befor thessencyon day ¹ in peyne of euery
offender to forfeft x^s
- & y^t all persones commynge to Stratford feyr or markett
w^t ther warres to Syll shall cum & go as fre & in lyke
maner as they have done tymes past
- pene* & y^t no persone from hensfurthe do occupy or vse eny
onleyffulles gamys as bowlles cardes tabulles or eny

other vnleyfull games in peyn of euery offender to forfeit for euery offence x^s

pene & y^t non receive eny ynmake in peyne of euery offender to forfeit & losse for euery tyme beyng takyn in the falt x^s

<i>ffurares</i> ¹	M ^r Smythe george whatley fraunces harbadge lewes vp William	}	Jur.
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[*Misc. Doc. vii. 58.*]

4 October, 1554

[VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE.]

² Stratford' super Aven'.

Visus ffranci plegii Cum Curia et Sesione de pace tentus ibidem quarto³ die octobris Annis regnorum philippi et marie dei gratia regis et regine anglie ffrancie neapolis Jerusalem' et hibernie fidei defensorum principum Hispaniarum et Cicilie archiducum austrie Ducum mediolani burgundie et brabancie Comitum haspurge flandrie et tirolis primo et Secundo.

*xij*⁴ [Juratores]

Thomas Wynfyld george Whatley henry bydell thome dycson	}	Jur.	thome gylbard William Whatley Johis burbadge Robert brat	}	Jur.
Raf Cawdrey Adrean quyny William mynske danyell phyllypes					
fraunces harbadge W ^m Smythe corveser Ric. harrenton	}	Jur.	lewest vp william Ric. Symons	}	Jur.

¹ Affeors.

³ Altered from quinto.

² In the handwriting of Richard Symons.

⁴ The jury.

¹ *Afferes [blank]*

Willm Whatley hye beyly
 (george Whatley)
 {thomas Wynfyld} head alderman
 Robert mors } chamburlens
 Willm mynske }
 Ryc. Symons toune clarke
 Rob. brat }
 Adrean quyny } Constabulles
 Ric. harenton }
 frauncis harbadge }
 Willm butlar } sergeauntes
 Richard sharpe }
 Willm Smythe ²} tasteres
 John Wheler ³

peine The xij men have ordered y^t no person hearafter Revyell agenst eny offecer or offeceres in peyne of euery offendour to forfeit & pay for euery defalt x^s & iij days imprisonment.

peine Item y^t euery tenant within y^e burrow of Stratford from hensforthe from tyme to tyme do well & Suffycyently repare the pavementes w^t pavynge ouer & ageynst their Soylles they havyng lawfull moncyon geven vnto them by the sergentes or one of them in peyne of iij^s iiij^d for euery defalt

peine Item y^t no housholdar w^tin the burrow of Stratford from hensfurthe retayn receve or kepe eny ynmake or ynmakes w^tin ther housses but only Suche personnes as shalbe admytted & appwyntyd by the hye bely hy alderman & other the kynges & the quenys magestyeyz offeceres in peyne of euery Suche offendour to forfeit vjs viij^d & y^r bodyez to Ward & ther to remayne iij days & iij nyghetes *peine* & y^t no ynhabytant w^tin the toune of Stratford from

¹ Afferors; but they are not given. For the names that follow see Introduction, p. xxvii.

² Corviser.

³ Of Henley Street, yeoman. The first appearance here of a noteworthy neighbour of John Shakespeare. Introduction, pp. xxviii, liv f., lx.

hensfurth receive eny straunger woman beynge w^t chyld & ther to be brought to bed of chyld in peyne of {forty shyllinges} xx^s & on wykes ponyshement

peine & y^t euery Suche person at this present tyme havynge in ther houssez eny ynmake or eny stranger woman beynge w^t chyld y^t they gyve knowledge ther of vnto the hy bely & hy alderman or on of them wⁱn iij days next ensuyng this Court in peine of xx^s

peine & y^t no person hearafter out of ther owne houses ley eny mucke in eny other places in the Stretes but only vpon the commen mukhylls appwynted for the same vnder the peyne of vj^s viij^d

peine & y^t the tenantes in the churche stret & aswell al other tenantes in stratford befor al halou day¹ (not befor the assencyon day)² Ryd the stretes of ther logges & blokes ther beynge & lyenge vnto the hurt noysaunce or let of the kynge & quenys leage people vnder the peyne of vj^s viij^d.

peine & y^t Ric. meychen & al other tenantes from tyme to tyme in swynstret or elles whear wⁱn stratford befor the feest of the assencyon now next comynge² do Scoure the gotteres befor ther Soylles & the Same gutteres So well Suffycyently & honestly scowred So do kep from hensfurthe all the same gutteres vnder the peyne of euery offendour to forfeit vj^s viij^d

peine & y^t no bochar from hensfurthe throw or ley ther ox pates nor ther garbages in the strettes but y^t euery bochar carre as well hys beas pates & also y^r garbages & ley them in Sum convenient place w^tout the toune after the o^r of ix by the cloke in the evenyngs vnder the peyne of xx^s

peine yt ys further ordeyned at this present court y^t yf eny person hearafter beynge knowne to be a commen brwar & do leave of brwyng at hys or ther pleasur shall not be sufferyd ageyn to brwe but y^t euery suche person before y^t he or they do brwe ageyn shall pey to the Chambur of Stratford the Sum of vii^l

peine & y^t no brwar Syll Staell aell furthe by the pot in peyn of xx^s nor no typlar brw eny aell in lyke peyne

peine yt ys lyeke casse ordeyned y^t all amercymentes y^t shall forten to amount ouer & above the summe of iij^s iiiij^d the hye bely for y^e tyme beyng to have the thyrd part the chamburlens to the vse of the chambur the Second part & the sergeautes the other part

peine & y^t the Sugarers hear after commyng to stratford feyres be not Suffered to stand & Syl ther Wares in eny other place ne places but only in the chappell stret the hy beyly to Seasseⁱ the rent of euery Standynge vnder the peyne of euery recevar Councelor or mayntaynar the contrary to forfeit forty shyllynge & y^r bodyez to prison
& y^t y^e salters Stand by twene the Sugarers & the chappell in lyke peyne

peine & y^t the bochares inhabetynge in stratford shal not Syll ther tallowz from hensfurthe but only to the townes men they tendynge & gyvynge as muche as afarrener wyll gyve batynge on half penny in euery Stone vnder the peyne of forty shyllynge

peine yt ys further ordeyned y^t from hensfurthe all other ynhabytant in stratford shall not take ouer muche rent off straungers for y^r standynges at y^e feyr tyme but y^t y^e hye beyly to Seasⁱ the rent indifferently in peyn of euery housholdar doyng the contrary to forfeit x^s

peine & y^t no tenant in stratford have from hensfurthe eny swyne goynge a brod in the strettis in peyn of the ownar of y^e swyne to forfeit for euery Swyne ij^d the sergeautes to take the swyne & to pound them in ther owne yar[d]es

m^r Mr Smyth William Whatley (iiij^d) thomas dycson (iiij^d) agnes Samwell (iiij^d) Robert Whoode (iiij^d) gryffyne (iiij^d) John pyrry (iiij^d) John gorst (iiij^d) Robt mors (iiij^d) Willm mynske (iiij^d) for ther dogges goynge at lardge & not moselyd they are amersed

peine y^t euery tenaunt in y^e burrowe of Stratford Scoure &

make cleane from tyme to tyme ther gutteres in peine of
ij^s viij^d

peine & y^t the mukhyll in the hye stret be Ryd befor all hallow
day¹ in peyne of the ownar of the Same to forfeit vj^s viij^d

& y^t non hear after ley eny muke there in lyke peyn

peine & y^t non hear after commenly vse w^tin stratford eny bow-
lynge nor no other vnlauffull games in ther houses in peyn
of the ownares of the hous to forfeit vj^s viij^d

peine & y^t none hear after have eny shyp goynge fedyng &
pasturynge in the bancroft ouer & a bove on owre but only
at y^e Wasshyngtyme but only straungeres they to be
Suffered w^t ther cattall ther but th[r]e owres at thuttermast
nor no man have ther goynge eny Swyne ther goynge vn
rynged in peyne of xx^s

peine & y^t all & euery Suche persons & person recevyng or
Sufferynge eny man seruant to occupy eny vnlauffull
games in his or ther housses to forfeit for euery defalt vj^s
viij^d

m' John brage (viij^d) for makynge a fray & drawynge blud
vppon William palmer & Henry edwards contrary to the
Kynge & the quenes peace whearfor he Standes amersyd

m' John lord (ij^s) for a fray & drawynge blood vppon gregory
Jones whearfor he ys a mersyd

m' gregory Jones (iiij^d) makynge a fray on John lord he
Standes amersyd

m' John nevell (vj^s viij^d) for Syllynge new ale vnder the hear-
syve ouer & above the order taken & made in the last
court he Standes amersyd

m' John nevell (viij^d) Agnes Samwell (viij^d) for not gevenge
knowlege to the tasters for assayenge of ther ale befor yt
were tonnyd the stand amersyd

peine & y^t all bacares y^t shall bake bred to syll shall syll iiij
loves for a penny ij loves a penny on loffe for a penny
boltyd w^t a lawfull bolter & y^t they kep thassyez in peyn
of xx^s for euery offence

peine & y^t all brwares y^t shal brwe ale to Sell from hensfurthe vnto the next court shall Syll newe ale vnder the hear syve for ij^s the dozen xij galones to the dozen & not above in peyne of xx^s & yf y^t shalbe thought requysed ¹ by the hye beyly hed alderman & the xij men by the reasone of a mountynge in the prycce of corne they to let call a hall & redres the same at ther dyscressyones & ij galones [of] smal ale for a penny

peine & y^t the typlars syl not ouer & above ij^d ob the galone & Syl by ther meysures Seallyd & alowed in peyn of euery offender to forfeit ij^s iiiij^d

peine and y^t the chaundelores shall not syll candylles ouer & above ij^d the pound & vnder as yt shal be thought requysed at the dyscressyon of the hye bely hy alderman & other the xij men

m' John nevell (ij^s iiiij^d) for hys wyf revelynge ageynst thoffeceres contrary to the order taken & made at the last court Whearfor he standes amercyd

peine & y^t all other peynes hearto fore made al though they be not in this booke recytyd to Stand & be in ther full strength & power

& y^t a nother day to be taken at the dyscressyon of the hye bely hy alderman & y^e xij men to answer the tenautes in wood stret to ther complayntes & y^t to be athyssyd ² & befor the next let court ³ or rather as yt shalbe thought requysyt

peine note for the saw pyttes to be put downe wⁱin xiiij days in peine of xx^s. notum.

ffurares ffrauncis Harbadge
 Robert brat

[*Misc. Doc. vii. 42.*]

¹ requisite.

² At this side.

³ 26 April, 1555.

20 December, 1554

[AGREEMENT OF THE CORPORATION WITH WILLIAM SMART,
SCHOOLMASTER.]

To all xpñ people to whom this present wrytyng indentyd shall cum. We William Whatley now Justice of y^e peace & hy bely² of the burrowe of Stratford vpon Aven in y^e County of Warr: george Whatley now Justice of the peace & hy alderman of the same burrowe & all other thaldermen & head burgesez ther Send gretynge: Knowe ye vs the forsaide bely alderman aldermen & head burgeses w^t oon assent & consent for vs & our Successors to have geven & grauntyd & by theis our present wrytyng indentyd to have confyrmyd vnto or trysty & welbelouyd William Smart bachelor of art now Scoolmaster w^t vs in the said burrowe of Stratford oon Stypend selery or wages of xxⁱⁱ a yere to be payd vnto hym yerely duryng hys naturall lyf by vs & or Successores out & of y^e rentes revenewes yssuys³ & proffettes of y^e londes & tene-mentes belungynge to y^e late gyld of stratford aforsayd dyssolved at four termyz in y^e yere y^t ys to say at the feestes of than-noncyacyon of or lady the virgin y^e natuyuytē of sent John baptyst sent mychell tharchaungell & the natuyuytē of chrys by even porcyones to be payd or w^tin oon monythe next after euery of the said feestes so y^t yt be lauffully axed: ffor all whiche said yerely stypend or wages of xxⁱⁱ a yere to be payd to y^e sayd William Smart in manner & forme aboue said, the forsaide William Smart by theis presentes Covenauntythe promesythe & grauntythe to & w^t the forsaide hy bely alderman aldermen & head burgesez & ther Successores y^t he the said William Smart from hensfurthe from tyme to tyme for & duryng his naturall lyf delygently to employ hymself w^t suche godly wysdom & lernynge as god hathe & shall endwe hym w^t: to lerne & teche in the said gramer scole all suche Scolares & chylder as

¹ In the handwriting of Richard Symons. Smart had a brother Peter in Stratford, who became a Capital Burgess.

² High Baily or Bailiff.

³ Issues.

shall forten to cum thether to lerne godly lernynge & wysdom beyng fet for the gramer scoll or at the least wyez entred or reddy to enter into ther accydence & princypalles of gramer **Provided** always y^t & yf yt so forten that the said William Smart at eny tyme or tymeze hear after durynge his naturall lyf by reason of Sykenes or eny other infyrmytyez be not abull to kep the same gramer scoll hymself y^t then he the said William Smart w^t thassent & consent of the hy bely aldermen & Capytall burgesez & ther Successores for the tyme beyng shall provyed a lawfull & an honest man lerned in gramer & in the lawe of god to subply the Rowme for the tyme in kepynge the Scoll to endwes the Scolares accordyngly & hys wages to be payd vnto hym for the tyme out & of the said twenty poundes **In Witnes** whearof to thone part of theis presentes wrytynges indentyd remaynyng w^t the said hy bely aldermen & Capytall burgesez & ther Successores whear vnto the said William Smart hathe put his seall : to thother part of theis presentes Wrytynges indentyd remaynyng w^t the said William Smart whear vnto the said hy bely aldermen & capitall burgesez have put ther Comen Seall yeven in the Councell Hall of Stratford aforsaid the xxth day of December in the yeres of the reigne of Phylip & mary by the grace of god kynge & quene of england fraunce napulles Jerusalem & yreland defensores of the feithe princes of Spayne & Sicill archdukes of austreye dukes of mylen burgone & brabant Countes of Haspurge flaunderes & tyroll the fyrist & second : ouer & aboue the Couenauntes above recyted the said hy bely aldermen & capytall burgesez & ther Successores vnto the forsaid William Smart y^e said yerely stypend or wages of xxⁱⁱ to be payd vnto hym for kepynge of y^e said Scoll durynge his naturall lyfe in maner & forme above said shall warrant & defend agaynst all people by theis presentes

Symons

By me Willm Smart

[Endorsed :—] ‘The skolmaster smarte’

[*Wheler Papers, I. 27.*]

For a further agreement see 1 January, 155⁴.

1 January, 155⁴₅

[FURTHER AGREEMENT OF THE CORPORATION WITH
WILLIAM SMART.¹]

To all ~~xxvii~~^{ix} people to whom this presentes wrytyng indentyd shall cum I William Smart bacheler of art now Scollmaster of y^e gramer scool of stratford vpon aven in y^e County of Warr. Send gretynge in or lord god euerlastynge. Knowe ye me the forsayd William Smart in consyderacion y^t I have geven & grauntyd vnto me by William Whatley nowe Justice of y^e peace & hye bely of Stratford aforsaid george Whatley now Justice of the peace & hye alderman ther & other the aldermen & Capytall burgesez of the same toune of Stratford aforsaid accordynge to the woordes prefyxed & declared in ther corporacyon, oon Stypend selery or Wages of xx^{li} a yer yerely to be payd vnto me beyng the scoolmaster duryng my naturall lyf out & of the rentes revenewez yssuys & proffettes of the londes & tenementes belungynge to y^e toune of stratford & dyd belunge to y^e late gyld of stratford aforsaid dyssolved as by a dede indentyd bytwene vs made therof berynge date the xxth day of December now last past mor playnly at lardge yt dothe & may appere, Know ye me the forsayd William Smart for certen good caussez & consyderacyones me specyally moved & vpon my own fre wyll³ at this present tyme by theis presentes do gyve & graunt out of my said yerely Stypend or wages of xx^{li} a yere viij^{li} xiiij^s iiiij^d to be payd yerely vnto one sir William Dalam of Stratford aforsaid Clericus duryng our two naturall lyves to gether for his wages,⁴ and also in further consyderacyon y^t the houssez londes & tenementes belungynge to y^e toune of Stratford aforsaid be far in Rwyne & decay, tawardes y^e repparacyones of thos tenementes I do further gyve & graunt out of my

¹ See p. 33.

² In the handwriting of Richard Symons.

³ Introduction, p. xxx.

⁴ Not, then, for his pension: see the later agreement of the Chamber with Dalam on 22 October.

sayd yerely Stypend or Wages of xx^{li} a yer twoo of the fyrist
 yeres next ensuyng the date hearof fyve markes a yere ¹
 & other twoo yeres then next folloynge xxxiiij^s iiiij^d a yere &
 after the Said foure yeres paymentes afor declared be fully
 ended & ymmedyatly after the death of y^e said sir William
 Dalam y^t then & from thennsfurth I the said William Smart
 by theis presentes do further couenaunt promes & graunt to
 & w^t ye said hy bely aldermen & capytall burgesez & ther
 successores y^t I the said William Smart do graunt & shall
 a bate out of my said wages of xx^{li} a yer yerely durynge my
 naturall lyf iiiijⁱⁱ to be bestowed tawardes y^e fyndyng of an
 vsshear in the same gramer scooll or elles vpon the rep-
 paracyones of y^e said tenementes at the dyscressyones of y^e hy
 bely aldermen & capytall burgesez of Stratford and ther
 successores for the tyme beyng as they shall thynke most
 nessessary & convenient at ther dyscressyones **In Witnes**
 whearof to thone part of theis presentes wrytynges indentyd
 remaynyng w^t the said hye bely aldermen & capytall burgesez
 and ther successores whear vnto I the said William smart
 have put my seall & w^t my owne hand wryt my name
 & to thother part of theis presentes wrytynges remaynyng w^t
 me the said William Smart whear vnto the said hy bely
 aldermen & capytall burgesez have put ther comen seal
 yeven the Councell hous of stratford aforsaid y^e fyrist day of
 January in the fyrist & second yeres of y^e reigne of phylip
 & mary by the grace of god kynge & quene of englond fraunce
 napulles Jerusalem & yreland defendores of the feithe princes
 of Spayns & cycyll archdukes of austria dukes of mylen
 burgon & brabant Countes of Haspurge flaunderes & tyroll

By me Wyllm Smart

[Seal gone]

oblygacyon L.S.

[Endorsed :—] W^m Smarte
 Skollm^r

[Wheler Papers, I. 28.]

¹ £3 6s. 8d.

7 February, 155^½

[COPY OF AGREEMENT OF THE CORPORATION WITH ROGER
Dyos, VICAR.¹]

Omnibus Christi fidelibus ad quos hoc presens scriptum peruererit Balliuus et Burgenses ville et burgi de Stratford' super aven' in Com. Warr. Salutem in domino sempiternam. Cum dominus Edwardus sextus nuper Rex anglie per literas suas patentes sub magno Sigillo suo Anglie confectas gerentes datum vicesimo octauo die Junij anno regni Septimo nos prefatos ballium et burgenses in unum corpus Incorporauit et erexit ac nos et Successores nostros per nomen ballui et burgensem ville et burgi de Stratford' super Aven' in Com. Warr. nominauit et nominari voluit ordinauit fecit et constituit ac Successionem perpetuam et communem Sigillum ad negotia nostra deseruituram similiter heredibus voluit et successit et quod simus per idem nomen persone habiles et capaces in lege ad accipiendum recipiendum et habendum de eodem nuper domino rege diuersa messuagijs [sic] molendina domos edifica cotagia terras tenementa horrea gardina Shoppas Selaria solaria Cameras aulas vasta Redditus reuersiones seruicia crofta decimas garbarum et feni et alias decimas ac cetera hereditamenta in eisdem litteris patentibus specificata Ac cum idem nuper dominus Rex per easdem litteras suas patentes dederit et concesserit nobis prefatis balliuo et burgensibus ville siue burgi de Stratford' predicta et successoribus nostris omnia illa mesuagia molendina domos edifica cotagia terras tenementa horrea gardina shoppas Selaria cameras aulas terras vasta modo in ruina Redditus reuersiones et seruicia ac cetera hereditamenta sua quecumque cum omnibus et singulis eorum pertinentiis situata iacentes et existentes in Churche stret chappell stret shypstret Bancroft hye stret ely stret Roder stret grene hyll stret Wood stret Henley Stret Wyndyssor burge stret &

¹ In the handwriting of Richard Symons.

medyll rewe in stratford' super aven' predicta in Comitatu predicto seu alibi vbi cumque in stratford' predicta que nuper fuerunt parcellam possessionum et revencionum nuper gilde de stratford' super aven' predicta in Comitatu predicto modo dissolute ac omnes decimas garbarum et decimas feni ac omnes alias decimas quascumque annuatim et de tempore in tempus crescentes provenientes renovantes in Wylmecot in Comitatu predicto **Petron** omnia mesuagia terras crofta prata pascua pastura et cetera hereditamenta quecumque cum suis pertinentiis in Wylmecot predicta Shottrey burgetoune dodwell & draytone in dicto Com. Warr. seu alibi vbi cumque predice nuper gilde de Stratford' predicta nuper spectantia siue pertinentia aut vt parcellam possessionum eiusdem nuper gilde ante hac habitam cognitam acceptam vsitatam siue reputatam existentem **Petron** omnes & omnimodo decimas granorum et feni provenientes crescentes et renovantes in villis et campus de old stratford Welcum & Busshopstone in dicto Com. Warr. nuper in tenura Johannis barcar¹ ac nuper Colegio de Stratford' Super Aven' predicta in Com. predicto dudum pertinentes et Spectantes ac parcellam possessionum inde nuper existentem ac eciā omnes & omnimodo decimas lani agnorum ac decimas minutias oblaciones et alteragia quecumque provenientes crescentes siue renovantes infra integrā parochiam de stratford' predicta ac predicto nuper collegio de Stratford' predicta dudum Spectantes et pertinentes & modo vel nuper in tenura Willelmi Barcar generosi vel assignatorum suorum existentes et in super cum nos prefati balliuus et burgenses per tenorem predictarum litterarum patencium predicti nuper domini regis tenemur per cartam nostram Sub Sigillo nostro Communi conficiendum & sigillandum dare et concedere vicario perpetuo ecclesie parochialis de stratford' Super aven' predicta & Successoribus suis vicarijs in eadem ecclesie quendam annualem redditum pencionem siue annuitatem tam viginti librarum per annum ad festa Michaelis archangeli & annunciacions beate marie Virginis per equales porciones soluendarum quam quadraginta solidorum per annum vltra dictas vigintas libras pro decima pencionis siue

¹ p. 14, note 1.

dotacionis predicte annuatim predicto nuper domino regi heredibus et successoribus suis ad Curiam primarum fructuum et decimarum regiarum ad festum natalis domini soluendorum prout in eisdem litteris patentibus dicti nuper domini regis plenius continetur **H*abentis*** igitur nos prefatos ballium et burgenses predicte ville de Stratford' super aven' in dicto Com. Warr. vigore et auctoritate predictarum litterarum patentium dicti nuper domini regis et per licenciam reginam [sic] tam nobis quam prefato Vicario in eisdem litteris patentibus concessam ac Juxta tenorem formam intentionem et effectum earundem vnamini assensu et concensu nostris dedisse concessisse et hoc presenti scripto et carta nostra confirmasse rogero Dyos clero nunc vicario perpetuo predicte ecclesie parochialis de stratford' predicta in Comitatu predicto tam quandam annualem redditum pencionem siue annuitatem viginti librarum legalis monete anglie in et pro dotatione vicarie sue predicte quam vnam aliam annualem redditum pencionem siue annuitatem quadraginta solidorum legalis monete anglie per annum pro decima vicarie predicte annuatim domino regi et domine regine qui nunc sunt ac heredibus et successoribus ipsius domine regine ad Curiam Primarum fructuum et decimarum regiarum soluendorum exeuntium de omnibus predictis mesuagiis molendinis domibus edificiis cotagiis terris tenementis horreis gardinis Shoppis selariis solariis cameris aulis vastis redditibus reuercionibus seruiciis croftis decimis ac ceteris premissis cum suis pertinentiis et qualibet inde parcella **H*abendum tenendum*** et percipiendum tam predictam annualem redditum pencionem siue annuitatem viginti librarum per annum quam predictam annualem redditum pencionem siue annuitatem quadraginta Solidorum per annum prefato Rogero Dyos Clerico et successoribus suis vicarijs perpetuis ecclesie parochialis de Stratford predicta soluendum (modo et forma sequente) videlicet predictum annualem redditum pencionem siue annuitatem viginti librarum ad festa Sancti Michaelis archangeli et annunciaconis beate marie virginis per equales porciones soluendum **E*t*** predictum annualem redditum pencionem siue annuitatem

quadraginta solidorum ad festum natalis domini tantum singulis annis soluendum. **Et Ulterius** volumus et concedimus pro nobis et successoribus nostris per presentes quod Si ac quociens contigerit predictum annuale redditum pencionem siue annuitatem viginti librarum seu predictum annuale redditum pencionem siue annuitatem quadraginta solidorum in forma predicta percipiendum seu eorum altera arretro fore insolutum in parte vel in toto post aliquod festum festorum predictorum quo ut prefertur solui debeat seu debeat quod extunc et tocens bene licebit prefato Rogero Dyos et successoribus suis vicarijs predictis et eorum assignatis in omnia et singula predicta mesuagia molendina domos edificia cotagia terras tenementa horrea gardina shoppas selaria solaria cameras aulas vastas redditus reuerciones seruicia crofta decimas et cetera premissa cum suis pertinentiis et quamlibet inde parcellam intrare et distingere districciones sic ibidem captas siue capiendas licite asportare abducere effugare et penes se retinere donec et quoisque de predictis annualibus redditibus pencionibus siue annuitatibus et earum vtraque ac qualibet inde parcella sic tunc arretro existentibus vna cum arreragiis earundem si que fuerint eidem vicario & Successoribus suis predictis plenarie fuerit satisfactus et persolutus. **In cuius** rei testimonium huic presenti scripto nostro Sigillum nostrum commune apposuimus Datum in aula nostra communi apud Stratford' predicta septimo die februarij annis regnorum Philippi et Marie dei gratia regis et regine anglie francie neapolis Jerusalem' et hibernie fidei defensorum principum hispaniarum et Cicilie archeducum Austrie ducum mediolani burgundie et brabancie Comitum haspurge flandrie et tirolis primo et secundo.

[*Council Book A, pp. 118-21.*]

26 April, 1555

[VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE.]

'Stratford' } Visus ffranci plegii Cum Curia et Sessione
 super Aven' } pacis tentus ibidem Vicesimo Sexto die Aprilis
 Annis regnorum phillippi et marie dei gratia
 regis & regine anglie ffrancie neapolis Jeru-
 salem' et hibernie fidei defensorum principum
 hispaniarum et Cicelie archiducum Austrie
 ducum mediolani burgundie et brabancie
 Comitum haspurgie fflandrie et tirolis primo
 et secundo.

xij Jur.

William Smythe Jur. (xij ^d)	Radulphus Cawdrey Jur.
thome Dycson Jur.	{ + Robertus brat}
+ thome phyllypes	• Danieli Phyllypes Jur.
• Henricus byddyll Jur.	{ Adreane quyny }
thomas gylbard Jur.	• Robert peret Jur.
	Roger Sadlor Jur.
• John burbadge Jur.	• Willm mynske Jur.
• laurence beynton Jur.	• John Whelar Jur. (xij ^d)
Humfrey plymley Jur.	• Willm Smyth Jur.
• Robert mors Jur.	{ • Willm butlar }
• Ric. symons Jur.	• lewes vp Willm Jur.
• Willm mors Jur.	edward West Jur.

Homage²

- m' thomas holtam for drawyng his dager & makynge a fray
 of Ric. harenton beynge cunstabull contrary to y^e kynge
 & quenes peaces he standes amersyd
- m' Roger banester & Rob. rodgares for havynge & recevenge
 in his hous a straung woman beynge brought to bed w^t
 chyld wherfor they stand a mercyd

¹ In the handwriting of Richard Symons. Those with *Jur.* against their names and no dot perhaps arrived late.

² The body of tenants attending a manorial court, or the jury at such a court.

- m'* anne tetlaw for recevyng of ynmake contrary to the order of ye court she standes a mercyd
- peyne* & y^t thomas pattrike do pay from hensfurth ij^d a yere to y^e chef rent Rowll for his hovell in the stret in the baksyd of his tenement in Henley stret, or elles y^t he do take doune hys hovell & pales ageyn befor mydsomer in peyne of vjs viij^d
- peyne* & y^t William chambures do befor sent Jamys day ⁱ pyche a paell by twene the comyn mukhyll ² & pattrix hous ij footes from y^e hous peyne vjs viij^d
- m'* John bell for leyenge tymbur in the stret & m^r smythe & {thomas pattrike} for leyenge tymbur in the stretes contrary to ye court they stand a mercyd
- m'* Ric. meychynne for none kepynge cleane his gutter in Swyne stret he standes amercyd
- m'* {vrsula wynfyld} John hunt Raf cawdrey John lord John gorst for leyenge garbages in y^e Commen mukhyll contrary to the order of the court the ar a mercyd
- m'* Henry Sydnall for brwyng aell in hyr [sic] hous & syllyng out by the pot he standes amercyd
- m'* edward homys & Ric. broune & Rob. brat John cartwryght for havynge ther swyne goynge a brod in the stretes & in y^e bancroft they ar a mersyd
- m'* the tenantes in Henley stret by twene walles hous & whelares for non scouryng ther gutteres y^{ei} ar amercyd
- m'* Rob. brat for Sufferyng bowlynge in his groundes he standes amercyd
- m'* M^r combes m^r ranoldes m^r gefferey humfrey ranoldes for havynge ther shyp goynge in & vpon the bancroft contrary to the order of the Court they stand a mercyd
- m'* John Dycson for recevyng mens seruantes gamuyng in his hous by day & by nyght contrary to thordor of the Court he standes a mercyd
- m'* edward homes for syllyng tallow candylles ij candylles in a pound he ys a mercyd

¹ 25 July.² This gives us the site of the authorized refuse-heap in Henley Street: pp. xxii, xxxiv.

- m'* Ric. aunge John croft wryght for beyng comen bacares & brekyng thassyez they are amercyd
- peyne* & y^t all peynes not beynge in this booke declared & recyted in the other ij last let Courtes do stand & be in ther full strenkyth & vertwe
- peyne* {& y^t no tenant from hensfurthe have eny duckes goynge a brod in y^e stretes}
- peyne* & y^t thomas dycson shall abyed Suche ordores for recevynge of tymbur burdes ladderes & suche lyk other thynges at feyr the feyr tyme in his yard as the hy bely m^r alderman & the xij men shall appwynt befor sonday nyght now next comyng¹ in peyne of xl^s
- m'* John page for havynge a mukhyll in roder stret contrary to thordor of y^e Court he standes amercyd
- peyne* y^t no bochar nor ther meny from hensfurthe ley no garbagess wⁱn the lybertyez of the toune in the Somer season in peyne of xx^s
- peyne* y^t from hensfurthe no person nor personnes bryngyng eny hurdolles tymbur or eny other lyke wares to stratford feyres to be sold y^t they carre none to be sold in burgeten² lordshyp in peyne of euery recevar abetter & Councillor the contrary to forfeit for euery defalt xl^s
- peyne* & y^t none tennant nor other persone hear after dwellyng in stratford do by eny fyshe to the thentent [*sic*] to retayll the same fyshe ageyne vntyll suche tyme y^t the toune be served in peyne of xl^s
- m'* m^r smythe John pyrry both for dogges goynge at lardge vn moseled the ar a mersid

ffurares	William mynske Jur.
	laurence beynton Jur.
	John Wheler Jur.
	William Smyth Jur.

[*Misc. Doc. iii. 11.*]

¹ 28 April.

² Bridgetown.

11 October, 1555

[VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE.]

'Stratford' Super Visus ffranci plegii Cum Curia et Sessione
Aven' pacis tentus ibidem xj^{mo} die octobris Annis
regnorum Philippi et marie dei gratia regis et
regine anglie ffrancie neapolis Jerusalem' et
Hibernie ffidei defensorum principum hispan-
iarum et Cecilie archeducum austrie ducum
mediolani burgundie et brabantie Comitum
aspurgie flandrie et tirolis Secundo et tertio.

xij Jur.

- Will'm Smyth Jur.
- Thome Dycson Jur.
- Thome phyllyppes Jur.
- Henricus byddyll Jur.
- Joh'es geffereys Jur.
- Thome gylbard Jur.
- + Radulphe cawdrey
- Jokes buradge Jur.
- Danielis phyllyppes Jur.
- Robertus brat Jur.
- Ric. Harenton Jur.

{Adrean quyny}

- Robertus peret Jur.
- + Robertus mors
- laurence beynton Jur.
- Humfrey plymley Jur.
- lewes vp Willyams Jur.
- frauncisco Harbadge Jur.
- Ricus Symons
- Will'm mynske Jur.
- Rogerus Sadler Jur.
- Joh'es Whelar Jur.
- {• Ric. Symones Jur.}
- Will'm mors Jur.
- Will'm Smyth Jur.

peine The xij men have ordeyned & fully agreed for them &
their Successores for euermore from hensfurthe y^t whear
all & euery person & persones y^t hear after shall forten to
be elected in eny offece wⁱn this toune & yf they or eny
of them So beyng electyd do refusse & forsake the offece
appwyntyd vnto hym or them y^t euery Suche person shall

² In the handwriting of Richard Symons.

VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE, 11 OCTOBER, 1555 45

forfeſt losſe & pay to the vſe of the chaumbur {fyve} (twoo) poundes of lawfull money of englond & y^t to be levyed vpon his or ther goodes or Cattall w^tin xiiij days next after the refusynge of the offece whiche he or they ſhall be appwynted vnto & y^t to be payd w^tout eny redempcyon¹

peine y^t no person hearafter reveyll ageynſt eny offecer nor offeceres in peyn of euery offendour to pay for euery defalt xx^s & iij days prisonment²

peine y^t euery tenaunt w^tin the burrow of Stratford from hensfurthe from tyme to tyme do well & suffycyent kep & repare the pavementes ouer & ageynſt ther Soylles they havynge laufull monysyon geven vnto them by the ſergeautes or one of them in peyne of iij^s iiiij^d

peine y^t no inhabitaunt in stratford from hensfurth retayne receve or kep eny ynmake w^tin ther houſſes but only ſuch perſoneſ as ſhalbe admytyd & appwyntyd by the hy bely & other thoffeceres in peyn of euery offendour to forfeſt xx^s & ther bodyez to ward ther to remayne for the Space of iij days & iij nyghtes or vntyll y^e money be payd

peine & y^t no ynhabytaunt w^tin stratford ſhal hensfurthe receve eny ſtraunger woman beyng w^t chyld & therin to be brought to bed of chyld y^t they gyve knowledge therof vnto the hy bely & other thoffeceres w^tin iij days next after lycence of the hy bely & other thoffeceres

peine y^t euery ſuche perſone y^t at this preſent tyme havynge in ther houſſes eny ynmake or ſtraunger woman that ſhall forten to be w^t chyld y^t they gyve knowledge therof vnto the hy bely & other thoffeceres w^tin iij days next after this court in peyne of xx^s

peine y^t euery tenaunt w^tin the burrowe of Stratford do Ryd ther soylles of logges & blokes befor thassencyon day & allſo honeſtly from tyme to tyme kep kleyne ther gutters w^tin the lybertyez of Stratford in peyn of iij^s iiiij^d euery offendour

¹ Introduction, p. xxviii.

² Ibid.

peine yt no bochar w^tin this lyberty from hensfurthe ley their ox pates or garbages in the stretes but that they & euery of them do carre out ther beastes pates & garbages furthe of the toune into Sum convenient place after y^e our of ix by the cloke in the evenyng vnder the peyne of euery offendour to forfeit & pay for euery defalt xx^s

peine yt yf eny person hearafter beynge knowne to be a comen brwar & do leave of brwng at hys pleasure shall not be suffered to brwe ageyn but yt fyrst he do pay to the Chaumber of Stratford v^{li} & yt no brwar after thys yere syll staell ale furthe by the pot in peyne of x^s nor no typlar brwe ale to syll in lyke peyne but vppon certen concideracyones as yt shall be found by the xij men

peine & yt the sugareres hearafter comynge to stratford fair be not Suffered to Syll ther sugare ware in eny other place but only in the chappell stret vnder the peyn of euery recevar councelar & mayntayner the contrary to forfeit & pay xl^s

peine & yt the bochares inhabetyng in stratford shall not from hensforthe syll ther tallow but only to the townysmen beynge chaundelares & other w^tin stratford they gevynge & tendynge for euery ston of tallow asmuche money as a farrener wyll gyve batynge a penny in euery ston vnder the peyne of euery offendour to forfeit for euery defalt xx^s

peine & yt no tenaunt in stratford from hensfurthe have eny Swyne goynge a brod in the stret in peyne of xij^d forfetyng for euery swyne & yt none have eny Swyne goynge at lardge in the bancroft vn ryngyd in lyke peyne

peine & yt no tenaunt typlar nor other in stratford from hensfurthe Comenly have nor occupy in ther housses eny vnlauffull games in peine of euery offendour to forfeit xx^s

peine yt no tenaunt make eny mukhyll or dunghyll in the strettis but thos yt be appwyntyd in peyne of euery offendour to forfeit & losse x^s

peine yt no Jorney man preintes nor manseruaunt from hensfurthe be not furthe of hys or ther masteres housses in the Wynter season after the our of eight & in the Somer-

season after the our of ix by the cloke in peyne of euery offendour to have iij days ponyshement in the geoll & to forfeit for euery defalt xx^s & to remayne in gaoll vntyll he have payd the money or elles to fynd surtyez for the payment ther of & as well y^e recevar in lyk peyne

m' John pyrry for dysobeyenge the Kynges Cunstable in the Watche tyme he Standes amercyd iij^s iiiij^d

m' Holyuer ascow for revelynge ageynst the Kynges offeceres he standes amercyd [blank]

m' John Henshaw for revelynge ageynst the Kynges offeceres he standes amercyd xx^d

peine & y^t all bacares bakynge bred to Syll shall syll a lof for a penny ij loves for a penny bultyd w^t a lawffull bultar & y^t they kepe the syez in peyne of euery offendour to forfeit for euery defalt iij^s iiiij^d

peine & y^t euery brwar brwyng ale to syll from hensfurthe vntyll the next Court shall syll new aell vnder y^e hear

nota syve for ij^d ob the galon xij galones to the dosen vnder the peyne of euery offendour doyng y^e contrary to forfeit for euery defalt xx^s: small drynke ij galenes a j^d & the typlares to Syll clere & Staell aell for iij^d the galon & not above in peyn of euery offendour to forfeit for euery defalt iij^s iiiij^d

peine & y^t y^e Chaundelores from hensfurthe vntyll the next Court shall not syll tallow candylles not ouer & above ij^d the pound in peine of euery offendour to forfeit for euery defalt iij^s iiiij^d

peine y^t no inhabetant in stratford be eny brocar or byar of corne for eny farrenar in peyne of forfetynge for euery defalt xl^s & on Wyke imprisonment & ther to remayne vntyll the said money be payd

peine & y^t no ynhabytant in stratford suffer eny straunger to ley eny corne in hys hous w^tout he make the corne in malt in peyne of euery offendour to forfeit for euery defalt xl^s & y^t to be peyd w^tout eny redempcyon

peine & y^t thos persones now havyng barley in ther houssez of eny fareners do ryd ther housses of y^t barley in peyne

of euery offendour doyng the contrary to forfeit & losse &
pay for euery defalt xl^s

pene & y^t no farrenar beynge a badjar shall not in eny on
market day from hensfurth lode ouer & above iij horsys
but y^t they Brynge the Justice letteres for the safcondyt
& ley vp no corne in peyne of v^{li}

The xij men have ordened welbeloved John burbadge hy
bely (Jur.) & also they have ordenyed ther welbelouyed Thomas
Dycson hy alderman (Jur.) & also they ordenyed ther welbelovyd
frauncis harbadge (Jur.) John Wheler (Jur.)

William Smyth (Jur.) lewes vp W^m (Jur.) constabulles
William Mors & Ric. Hyll tastares Jur.

Danyell Phyllyppes & William Smythe lether Sealares Jur.

¹ Fiat be for Ric. thatcher

& for quynes gryndyng malt other for money towll.

[*Misc. Doc. vii. 59.*]

22 October, 1555

[AGREEMENT OF THE CORPORATION WITH WILLIAM DALAM,
LATE SCHOOLMASTER.]

² **Dmibus Christi fidelibus** ad quos hoc presens scriptum
indentatum peruererit balliuus et burgenses ville de Stratford'
super Aven' in Comitatu Warr' salutem in domino sempiternam
cum nuper magister et aldermanni et procuratores nuper gilde de
Stratford' predicta per Scriptum suum indentatum sub eorum
Commune Sigillo gerentem datum quarto die Nouembris Anno
regni regis Henrici octauai tricesimo quinto dederint et conces-
serint Willelmo Dalam Clerico vnum Sacerdotale seruicium ad
missam Celebrandum videlicet in diebus profestis tantum infra
Capellam dicte nuper gilde et in diebus festiuis in ecclesia paro-
chiali de Stratford predicta quando deus sibi Sanitatem dis-
posuerit: Necnon aliud seruicium magistri grammaticalis ad
Scolares grammaticae docendum infra predictam nuper gildam ad

¹ For Thatcher see p. 52.

² In the handwriting of Richard Symons.

scholam venientes nichil ab eis pro labore suo Capiendum vna
 cum quadam annuitate siue annuali redditu decem librarum
 eidem Willelmo annuatim soluendam ad iiiij^{or} anni terminos pro
 termino vito eiusdem Willelmi quamdam idem Willelmus dic-
 tum officium magistri grammaticalis exerceret et cum idem
 Willelmus officium illud dimitteret tunc haberet annuatim nisi
 octo marcas prout per Scriptum predictum plenius continetur ac
 pro eo quod predictus Willelmus Dalam iam senio afflictus
 existens Ita quod ipse predictum officium magistri grammaticalis
 exercere non valeat et ad intencionem quod nos predicti
 balliuus et burgenses competentem exhibicionem eidem Willelmo
 donare dignaremur idem Willelmus scriptum suum indentatum
 predictum nobis restituit et Sursum reddidit cancellandum
Sciatis igitur nos predictos balliuum et burgenses predicte ville
 de Stratford' predicta tam in Consideracione predicta quam in
 Consideracione boni et diligentis seruicij per dictum Willelmum
 Dalam nobis ante hac impensi et pro eo quod idem Willelmus
 Dalam quamdiu vixerit cum ad hoc legittime dispositus fuerit
 ac infirmitate seu alio licito impedimento cessante missam et
 alias oraciones diuinas celebrabit videlicet diebus festiuus [sic] in
 ecclesia parochiali de Stratford' predicta et in diebus profestis
 infra Capellam predicte nuper gilde Situatam infra villam siue
 burgum de Stratford predicta pro bono Statu modernorum
 ballivi et burgensium ville predicte ac pro animabus eorum cum
 ab hac luce migrauerint et pro animabus omnium fidelium de-
 functorum vnanimi assensu et concensu nostris dedisse conces-
 sissee et hoc presenti Scripto nostro confirmasse predicto Willelmo
 Dalam Capellano tam illamcompetentem et sufficientem Cameram
 quam predictus Willelmus Dalam modo tenet et occupat iuxta domum
 siue aulam nuper vocatam the gild hall in Stratford' predicta
 vna cum liberis ingressu egressu et regressu ad eandem cameram
 quam vnam annuitatem siue annualem redditum octo librarum
 legalis monete anglie exeuntem de omnibus terris tenementis et
 ceteris hereditamentis et possessionibus nostris quibuscumque
 in Stratford' predicta seu alibi in Comitatu Warr' **Habendum**
tenendum et gaudendum predictam cameram cum liberis
 ingressu egressu et regressu ad eandem ac habendum tenendum

et percipiendum predictam Annuitatem siue annualem redditum octo librarum predicto Willelmo Dalam et assignatis suis ad terminum vite naturalis eiusdem Willelmi eadem annuitatem siue annualem Redditum Soluendum annuatim ad quatuor anni terminos videlicet ad festa natalis domini annunciacions beate marie virginis nativitatis Sancti Johannis Baptiste et Sancti Michaelis archangeli per equales porciones **Et** si ac quociens contigerit predictam annuitatem siue annualem redditum octo librarum arreto fore non solutum in parte vel in toto post aliquod festum festorum predictorum quo vt prefertur solui debeat quod tunc et tocis bene licebit predicto Willelmo Dalam et assignatis suis durante vita naturali eiusdem Willelmi in omnia predicta terrae tenementa et cetera premissa cum suis pertinenciis in quamlibet inde parcellam intrare et distingere districciones que sic ibidem Captum siue capiendum licitum abducere effugare et asportare ac penes se retinere donec et quousque sibi de annuitate siue annuali redditu predicto sic tunc arreto existente vna cum omnibus inde arreragiis, Si que fuerit, plenarie fuerit satisfactum et solutum de qua quidem annuitate siue annuali redditu predicto nos predicti balliuus et burgenses posuimus predictum Willelum Dalam in plenam et pacificam possessionem per Solucionem duorum denariorum eidem Willelmo in parte Solucionis Annuitatis predicte per nos die sigillationis presencium traditum et per solutum **In Cuius** Rei testimonium huic presenti scripto nostro sigillum nostrum commune apposuimus Datum apud Stratford' predicta in Communi aula nostra ibidem vicesimo secundo die Octobris annis regnum Philippe et marie dei gracia regis et regine anglie francie neapolis Jerusalem' et Hibernie fidei defensorum principum hispaniarum et Cecilie archeducum austrie ducum mediolani burgundie et brabancie Comitum haspurge flandrie et tirolis Secundo et tertio.

[Endorsed :—] Note hit hathe byn reportyd that the Stypent
of viijⁱⁱ w^thin wrytten was xⁱⁱ. quod uide in
Computo Willelmi Mynse.

[*Wheler Papers, I. 28.*]

7 April, 1556

[VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE.]

'Stratford' { Scil.
super Aven' Visus ffranci plegii Cum Curia et Sessione
 pacis tentus ibidem Septimo die Aprilis
 annis regnorum philippi et marie dei gratia
 regis et regine anglie ffrancie neapolis
 Jerusalem' et hibernie fidei defensoris etc.
 Secundo et tertio.

Essonie [Nil].

xij Jur.	Willms Smythe Jur.	Robertus mors Jur.
	Johnes Jeffereys Jur.	Willms mynkes Jur.
	Georgius Whatley Jur.	Robertus brat Jur.
	Robertus perott Jur.	Rogerus Sadler Jur.
	ffranciscus Harbadge Jur.	edmundus barret Jur.
	lewes ap William Jur.	Johnes taylor Jur.
	Ric. Harenton Jur.	Richard pers Jur.
	Richard byddyll Jur.	

m'	Richard Godwyn (iijs iiij ^d) of Stratford Smythe for dysobeyenge the hy bely w ^t obprobryous woordes he ys a mercyd
m'	Rob. Whoode (xij ^d) bocher for makynge afry & drawynge blood vpon John Heyward ageynst y ^e kynges peace amercyd
m'	Thomas godwyn (xij ^d) for dysobeyeng the Constable in recevenge of a straunger be nyght he ys amersyd
m'	Ric. Carles (xij ^d) Rob. Smyth (xij ^d) chaundelors wyf (xij ^d) tetlows wyf (xij ^d) edward west (xij ^d) for hys tenantes in his hous on the bac syed on mydylrow [blank] for recevynge of ynmake they stand amersyd
m'	cox (iiij ^d) in Henley strett for recevynge a woman gret w ^t chyld he stands amerced

¹ In the handwriting of Richard Symons.

- m'* Raf Cawdrey (xij^d) John gorst (xij^d) John berd (xij^d) not carryenge ther garbages by nyght furthe of the toune but for leyenge ther garbages in the mukhyll afor chawmbures the ar amersyd
- m'* John Dycson (vj^d) Cowper makyng a mukhyll at his bak doore he ys amersyd
- m'* Roger sadlar for leyenge mooke in henley stret vnder his owne wall he ys amerced
- peyne* y^t Ric. thatchar do avoyd the burrow toune of Stratford befor mydsomer next in peyne of imprisonment ¹
- m'* Rob. perott (iiij^d) edrean quyny (iiij^d) Ric. meychyn (iiij^d) laurence beynton (iiij^d) m^r Ranoldes (iiij^d) Humfrey Plymley (iiij^d) William Rogeres (iiij^d) William Vydlyn (iiij^d) for not kepynge cleane & Scoured ther gotteres as well in the Swyne Stret as in the shypstret they be amersyd John dycson (iiij^d) thomas gylbard (iiij^d) in lyke peyne
- m'* {thomas godwyn (iiij^d) fletchare sir william brogden (iiij^d) Clericus for not Scourynge ther gutters in ded lone they be amersyd}
- peyne* & y^t no person in stratford havynge a quyrne grynd eny malt but only hys ounē & for the gryndynge ther of do take eny towll or grynd for money in peyne of euery offence to forfeit for euery defalt iij^s iiij^d}
- peyne* & y^t none hear after have eny Swyne goynge abrod in bancroft w^tout a keper nor vnryngyd in peine of forfeitynge for euery Swyne So beynge taken in the falt xij^d
- peyne* y^t no inhabitaunt in stratford be eny brocar or byar of corne for eny farrener in peyne of xl^s
- peine* & y^t no person hear after revell ageynst eny offecer or offeceres in peyne of euery offender to forfeit for euery defalt xx^s & y^t to be payd w^tout eny redempcyon
- peine* & y^t euery tenaunt w^tin the burrow of Stratford from tyme to tyme do repare the pavementes ayeanst ther Soylles they havynge lauffull monyssyon by the sergeautes or one of them in peyne of vjs viij^d
- peine* & y^t no tenaunt receive eny ynmake into his & ther

¹ See p. 48.

housses w^tout a specyall lycence of the hy bely in peyne
of euery offender to forfeit forty shillynges

peine & y^t all suche persones now havyng eny ynmake in ther
housses y^t they do avoyd ther housses of all suche yn-
makes w^tin xv days next after this Court in peyne of
forty shillynges & y^t non receive eny straunger woman
comynge to this burrow toune beynge w^t chyld & therin
to be brought to bed of chyld in lyke peyne

peine & y^t euery tenaunt w^tin this burrow do Ryd the strettess
& Soylles of logges & blokes lyenge & beynge to the
noysanc of the kynges & quene Subiettes & y^t to be done
before thassencyon day in peyn of euery offendour to forfeit
for ther defalt vj^s viij^d

peine y^t euery tenaunt kep & Scour & make clean ther guttares
from tyme to tyme from hensfurth in peyn of euery
offender to forfeit & losse for euery defalt iij^s iiiij^d

peine & y^t no bochar ley eny garbages or Ryddynge of beast
ballys w^tin the burro but y^t they & euery of them carre
furthe ther garbages furthe of y^e burro after ix of the clok
in the evenyng vnder the peyne of forfetyng for euery
defalt xx^s

peine & y^t no sugarer hearafter Comynge to stratford to Syl his
wares do syll his wares in eny other place but only in the
chappell stret vnder y^e peyne of euery receiver Councillor
mayntayner & abetter of eny Suche sugarer doyng the
contrary to forfeit & losse for euery defalt xl^s

peine & y^t the bochares in stratford shal not from hensfurth
Syl ther tallow but vnto the chaundelers & other w^tin the
toune So y^t they wyll tender & gyve for the same tallow
as much money batynge on penny in a stone as a farrener
wyll gyve under the peyne of forfetyng for euery defalt
xl^s

peine & y^t eny tenaunt make eny mukhyll in the Strettes but
only thos y^t be appwynted in peyne of euery offender
doyng the contrary to forfeit & losse xl^s

peine & y^t none ynhabetyng in stratford havyng a quyrne
myll for luker or geyne grynd eny malt of his neyboures

from hensfurthe but only his owne malt vnder the peyne
to forfeit for euery defalt x^s

peine y^t all bacares y^t bake bred to Syll shall syll ij loves for
a penny i loffe for a penny bultyd w^t a leyffull bulter &
y^t the kepe the Syez vnder peine for euery defalt to for-
fet x^s

peine & y^t al brwares vyttelares & typlares do Syl aell vnder
the hearsyve staell aell & Small aell yn maner & forme
as yt shalbe thought requysed from tyme to tyme by the
hy bely hy alderman & ther bretherne thaldermen in peine
of euery offender to forfeit & losse euery brwar xx^s euery
vyttelar x^s euery typlar iijs iiij^d

ffurares { ffraunces Harbage Jur.
Ric. byddyll Jur.

[*Misc. Doc. vii. 33.*]

2 October, 1556

[VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE.]

'Stratford' } Scil. Visus franci plegii Cum Curia et Sessione
super Aven' } pacis tentus ibidem Secundo die octobris
Annis regnorum Philippi et marie dei
gratia regis et regine anglie Hispaniarum
ffrancie vtriusque cissillie Jerusalem' et
Hibernie fidei defensorum arche ducum
austrie ducum burgundie mediolanum et
brabancie Comitum Haspurge fflandrie et
tirolis tertio et quarto.

Essonie [Nil].
xij Jurati Willm Smythe } Jur. george Whatley } Jur.
Johes geffereys } Jur. Willms Whatley }
Henric. byddyll } Jur. + Robert brat
thome gylbard } Jur. Adrean quyny Jur.

¹ In the handwriting of Richard Symons.

VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE, 2 OCTOBER, 1556 55

laurence beynton Jur.	lewes ap Willm Jur.
Daniel phyllyppes Jur.	Johnes Wheler Jur.
+ Ric. Harrenton	Willms Smyth Jur.
ffraunces Harbage Jur.	+ Rogerus Sadler
Robert mors Jur.	Ric. Symons Jur.
Willm mynske	
Johnes lewes Jur.	

peine Item y^t euery tenaunt wⁱn the burrow of Stratford
hear after from tyme to tyme do repare the pave-
mentes ouer & ageynst ther Soylles they havynge
lauffull monyssyon by the sergeant[es] or one of
them in peyne of vj^s viij^d

m' nycheles wylson (vj^d) for recevenge a straunge woman
in his hous contrary to thordor of the Court Whear-
for he ys amersyd

m' Ric. reve (xij^d) for recevynge of vrsley in his hous
as an ynmake ys amercyd

m' Ric. moores tenant (xx^d) for recevynge of a woman
beynge brought to bed of a chyld syns the last Court
the said tenant ys amercyd

peine & y^t all & euery hous holder wⁱn thys burrow of
Stratford now havynge eny ynmake in ther howses
y^t they avoyd euery suche ynmake forthe of ther
housses wⁱn v days next after this court in peyne of
euery offendour to forfeit for euery Suche defalt xl^s &
iiij days ynprisonment

peine & y^t non receive eny straunger woman comynge to
this toune beynge w^t chyld & therein be brought to
bed of chyld vnder the peyne of xl^s

peine & y^t euery tenant make & kepe Cleane ther gutteres
from tyme to tyme in peyne of euery offender to
forfeit for euery defalt iiij^s iiiij^d

peine & y^t the bochares & euery of them do carre ther
garbages & ryddynge of baistes ballys furthe of y^e
toune into Sum convenient place after the our
of nyne by the clok in the evenyng vnder the peyne
of xx^s

- peine* & y^t no bochar w^tin this burrow syll ther tallow but only vnto the chaundlares of the toune they havynge the tallow on penny in euery ston vnder the price y^t a forrenar wyl gyve vnder the peyne of euery offender xl^s
- peine* & y^t no ynhabytant in stratford have nor make eny muckhyll in the Stretes but only thos y^t be appwyned in peyne of euery offendour to forfeit xx^s
- & y^t non have ther shyp goynge or fedynge in the bancroft not ouer & above iij oures in lyke peyne
- peine* & y^t none ynhabytant in stratford havynge a malt myll or quyrne myll for luker love & geyne do grynd eny other mens malt but his owne in peyne of forfeitynge xx^s for euery defalt
- & y^t the mukhyll beyng a comen mukhyll lyenge before chambures hous the proffettes ther of from hensfurth to be to the vse of the chambur & in lyke maner the mukhyll at shyp stret end & the mukhyll at burgestret end & the mukhylls in reder stret & meyr stret.
- bred paine* y^t al bacares y^t bake bred to syll shall syll ij loves for a penny a lof for a penny & y^t they kep thassyez & bultyd w^t a lawfull bowlter & y^t al bruares shal syll new aell vnder the hearsyve for iij^d ob y^e galon good & wholsum, staell & clere for iiij^d & ij galones & half of small drynke for a penny & y^t yt be good & wholsum in peyn of xl^s for euery defalt
- peine* & y^t no inhabytant have ther Swyne goynge abrod in the Stretes vnder the peyne for euery swyne so beyng found in y^e falt to forfeit xij^d & y^t y^r ys on appwyned offecer for y^t purpos
- & y^t no bruar in Stratford gevynge vp bruyng shall not at ther plesures be a commen brwar ageyn but that he shall fyrst pay to the chambur v^{li} for hys or hyr lycence
- peine* & y^t ther ys on appwynted to ouerse all Sturdy & straunge beggares commynge to the burrow of Strat-

- ford and y^t ther be none hear suffered but only accordynge to a statute provydyd for the same & y^t he y^t shall be appwyntyd shall have a Cottⁱ appwyntyd vnto hym whear by he shall be knowne from al other
peine & y^t no typlar do from hensfurthe syl eny Staell aell by eny mesure but a seallyd mysure & appwyntyd by y^e bely vnder y^e peyne of xx^s
- merce* John burbage (xij^d) for syllynge Wynes not beyng wholsum & above y^e statute he ys amerced
- peine* & y^t none do bake bred to syll w^tin the burrow but only the commen baceres appwyntyd for the same but y^t they do agree w^t thartyffeceres of bacares vnder the peyne of forfetynge for euery defalt xl^s
- m'* John heyward (iiij^d) & peter gest kynnysman (iiij^d) for makynge afry in the deffalt of bothe they are amerced
- m'* John ycheuar (xij^d) for makynge a fray & drawynge blood vpon John goman he ys a merced
- peine* & y^t from hensfurthe all persones havynge eny standynge burdes & trestylles powtt in y^e stret w^tin this burrow be from hensfurth take[n] & Rid furthe of the stretes ymmedyatly after euery fayr & market day in peyne of euery offendour to forfeit for euery defalt iijs iiij^d
- Item presentimus quod Georgius Turnor Alienauit Johanni Shakespere & heredibus suis vnum tenementum cum Gardino & Crofto cum pertinentiis in Grenehyll stret tentum de domino libere per Cartam per redditum inde domino per annum vj^d & sectam Curie et idem Johannes presens in Curia fecit domino fidelitatem pro eisdem. Et quod Edwardus West Alienauit predicto Johannis Shakespere vnum tenementum cum Gardino Adiacente in Henley stret per redditum inde domino per annum vj^d et sectam Curie² et idem Johannes presens in Curia fecit fidelitatem. Item presentimus quod Rogerus Coley Alienauit Johanni Icheuor & heredibus suis vnum tenementum

¹ Coat.² Introduction, p. xxxv.

cum pertinentiis in Henley strete per redditum inde
domino per annum xij^d & sectam et idem Johannes
presens in Curia fecit fidelitatem pro eodem.

Afferatores	laurence beyntone)
{ffurares}	Ric. Symons

} Jur.

[*Misc. Doc. vii. 40.*]

30 April, 1557

[VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE.]

'Stretford' } Visus ffranci plegii cum Curia et Sessione
super Aven' } pacis ibidem tentus vltimo die Aprilis Annis
Regnorum Philippi et Marie dei gratia Regis
et Regine Anglie Hispaniarum ffrancie
vtriusque Sicilie Jerusalem' et Hibernie fidei
defensorum &c Tercio et quarto.

Essonie Scil. [*Nil.*]

*Positi in Decennariis*² }
domini Regis & Domine } Scil. [*Nil.*]
Regine

xij Jurati pro }
Domino Rege & } Scil.
Domina Regina }

• Thomas Dyxson	• Rob'tus Bratt
{ + thom. Byddell}	{ + Adrianus Quynye}
{ + Jokes Burbage}	• ffranciscus Herbage
• Georgius Whateley	• Daniell Philipps
• Will'ms Mors	• Edwardus younge
• Rogerus Grene	• Jokes Icheuor
• Ricus Hyll	• Jokes lewes
• Ed'us Barrett	• Robertus lock
{ + Jokes Shakespere ³ }	• Ricus Parker
• Ricus Byddell	

} Jur. } Jur. } Jur.

¹ In the handwriting of Richard Symons.

² *Decennarius*, a titheing-man or dozener.

³ Introduction, p. xxxvi. Shakespeare was summoned to the Jury, but made reasonable excuse.

peine the xij men have consultyd & agreed y^t all orderes & peynes hear tofore made towchynge & concernyng the reparynge of the pavyng of the Stretes in stratford & also for recevynge of ynmakes & straunge women comynge to stratford beyng w^t chyld & wⁱn this burrow beyng brought to bed of chyld shall stand & contynew in full strenkythe

merc. Chawneres wyf (xij^d) for recevynge of ynmakes & thomas ryland (xij^d) for recevynge of ynmakes contrary to thorder of the Court Whearfor they stand a mersyd & y^t they avoyd ther ynmakes wⁱn xiiij days next after this court

peine vnder the peyne xx^s

merc. Robert Rogeres (xij^d) for recevynge of ynmakes he ys amercyd & y^t Robert Rogeres do ryd his hous of his ynpayne makes by Wytsday in peyne of xl^s

merc. nycholes wylson (xij^d) for recevynge of ynmakes contrary to y^e ordor of the court he standes amersyd

merc. {Ric. Sponar for receveyng of an ynmake he ys amersyd}

merc. John Wyrrall (iiij^d) for recevynge of an ynmake he ys amersyd

merc. William rogeres (xij^d) for not makynge nor kepynge clean hys gutter in shypstret he ys amercyd & y^t the same William rogeres from hensforth do kep kleyn his gutter

peyne from tyme to tyme in peyne of x^s

merc. thome hunt (iiij^d) Ric. brookes (iiij^d) agnes meychyn (iiij^d) for not vsynge honestly ther gutters they be amercyd & y^t they do hearafter quyetyl vse themselves & ther gutters in swepynge them in peyn of euery offender to forfeit for euery defalt xij^d

merc. Roger sadlar (xx^d) for havynge hys mukhyll in henley stret he ys a mersyd & y^t he do suffer no longer eny mukhyll in henley stret in peyne of vj^s viij^d

merc. {Willm perot &} elisabete beynton (iiij^d) for havynge hyr mukhyll in {roder stret &} swynstret she ys amercyd v^s

merc. Henry Sydnall bakynge bred & brekynge thassyez & beyng no commen bacar he standes amercyd & y^t he do

- not from hensfurthe bake bred to Syll but y^t fyrst he
do agre w^t thartyffeceres of bacares & chamberlenes
vnder the peyne to forfeit for euery tyme beynge proved
peyne in the falt vjs viij^d
- merc.* John Henshaw (iiij^d) for drawynge his dager & makynge
a fray at John Jamsones he stands amercyd
- merc.* Roger Skelton (xij^d) for makynge a fray uppon thomas
Dycson Junior he ys amercyd
- merc.* thomas hunt (iiij^d) & thomas godwyn (iiij^d) for makynge
a fray in the defalt of bothe partyez the be amercyd
- merc.* John Jamson (v^s) for kepynge evell rewell recevenge mens
servauntes at servece tyme & also geveng the sergeauntes
evell woordes he standes amersyd
- peyne* y^t no tennant havynge ther Swyne goynge abrod vppon
the commens nor in the lones vn ryngyd vnder the peyne
of forfetynge for euery swyne vn ryngyd for euery
defalt vj^d
- peyne* y^t al bacares y^t bak bred to syll shall syll ij loves for
a penny a lof for a penny bultyd w^t a lauffull bulter & to
kep the Syez
- peyne* & y^t all brwares y^t brw aell to syll shall syll new aell
vnder the hearsyve for iij^d ob new & iiij^d stael the galon
clere & ij galon of small drynk for a penny good &
wholsom vnder the peyne to forfeit & losse for euery
defalt xx^s
- merc.* edward vydkyn (iiij^d) for recevyng a ynmake he ys a
mercyd
- merc.* & Robert Salesbery for tonnyng forthe new aell & small
drynke & not beynge wholsome he standes amersyd
- merc.* thomas holtom (xij^d) for not gevenge the tasteres knowlege
to assay his ale be for he tonnyd furthe his ale he Standes
amersyd
- peyne* y^t no brwar do tone furthe eny ale but y^t the tasteres do
assay therof fyrst vnder the peyne to forfeit for euery
defalt iij^s iiij^d
- peyne* y^t & yf edward homes for his tenauntes in grene hyll
strete & thomas meryke for hys tenauntes in roder stret

& hey lone y^t ther tenautes do receve eny yn make vnder the peyne y^t the Said merryke & homys shall forfeit & losse for euery yn make receved to forfeit & losse xx^s

peine y^t the tenautes dwellynge in eny hous of the toune groundes sumtyme the gyld dyssoluyd do receive no yn make in ther housses vnder the peyne of xx^s or elles to avoyd from ther housses & the chamburlens to strayne for the Same amersymentes & to avoyd ther Sub tenautes befor wytsontyed

merc. Roger bowld (xij^d) for gevynge vnlauffull woordes to the Constabulles now of late by nyght he standes amersyd

peine y^t Ric. sponer do avoyd his ynmake wⁱn viij days next after this court vnder the peyne to forfeit & losse xx^s

pre-sent-ment the xij men do present that the elme standynge at george whatleys barne and now yn contravarce betwene george whatley & Ric. reve standythe vppon george whatley ground & that the Same reve wⁱn x days now next folloynge do set & pytche his moundes by twene hym & Willm Smyth indifferently in peyne of xx^s

Item presentimus quod Ricardus Cutt qui de domino tenuit libere per cartam vnum tenementum cum pertinentiis in Stretford in quodam vico ibidem vocato the High stret per Reddithum inde domino per Annum j^d citra vltimam curiam alienauit predictum tenementum cum pertinentiis cuidam lodwico ap Wyllyam et heredibus suis qui quidam lodwicus presens in Curia fecit domino fidelitatem pro premissis

Item presentimus quod Thomas Wynkfyld qui de domino tenuit libere per cartam unum horreum iacentem in Stratford in quodam loco ibidem vocato Bancroft syde et vnam placeam vacue terre in le highe strete per redditum inde domino per Annum iiij^d citra vltimam curiam obijt¹ et legauit omnia premissa cum per-

¹ Introduction, pp. xxi, xxiv, xxvi, xxxviii.

tinentiis per testamentum suum in Scripto cuidam
Ricardo Wynkyld filio suo tercio qui quidem Ricardus
presens in Curia fecit domino fidelitatem pro premissis.

ffurares Daniel Phillettes }
 Johannes Tayler } Jur.

[*Misc. Doc. vii. 37.*]

29 September, 1557

[THE BOOK OF THE ORDERS OF THE CHAMBER.]

^a This book appertaynethe only to the chambur
of Stratford vpon avon yn the countye of Warrick
made in the Fest of Sent mychael tharchaungell in the
yere of our lord god a thousandd fyve hundred fyfty &
seven & in the Fourthe & fyvethe yeres of the reigne
of phylyp & mary by the grace of god kynge & quene
of englond hyspayn Fraunce bothe the Cicilles¹ Jeru-
salem & Irelond defendorz of the feithe archedukes of
austria dukes of Burgund mylyen² & braband Countes
of Haspurge³ flaundres & tyroll. And yn the tyme
off Fraunces Harbadge Skynner then beyng bely⁴ of
the Burrow of Stratfor aforsayd John Jeffereys
Capytall alderman Willia Smythe mercer Henry
Bydell george Whatley William Whatley John
Burbadge Raf Cawdrey Robard Bratt Robert mors
Adrean quyny & Robert perett Aldermen Danyell
phylyppes Roger Sadler lews ap William William
Mynske William Smythe corveser Humfrey Plymley
Richard Symons Richard Byddyll Richard Hyll &
John lewes Capytall Burgeses of the same burrow
of Stratford aforsayd yn Whuche sayd yere theis
ordores hereafter declared were consowltyd made
& ordered for the good Rewyll of the burrow of

^a In the handwriting of Richard Symons.

¹ Sicilie,

² Milan.

^b In a later hand.

³ Hapsburg.

⁴ baily.

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Stratford aforsayd to be had from hensfurthe Frequented vsed aswell for thos persones whos namys ar above resyted as also for ther Succesors.

The
Election
of the
Balyf,^a

In primis that from hensfurthe yerely on the Wennyngday next befor the {feest of Sent Mychell tharchaungell} (natyvyty of our lady') a Hall to be kept in the Councell Chamber for the eleccyon of the belyf & head alderman at whuche hall all & euery thaldermen & Capytall burgessez shall be there present euery of them in hys goune & he y^t makythe defalt havynge not a lauffull Caus so y^t he have lauffull warnynge euery alderman So makyng defalt to forfeit & pay xx^s & euery Capytall burges so makyng defalt to forfeit & pay x^s all whuche Sayd forfeitures shall be payd to y^e chamburlens to the vse of y^e Chambur at or befor the next hall then next foloyng

² forfec-
ture for
euerye
alderman
xx^s &
euerye
burghes
x^s.^a

Item yf eny of the aldermen (or burgesses) do refuez to be belyf when hys turne cummythe & beyng elect by the wholl Councell or the most part of them (then) he to forfeit & pay to the {Chamber} (balyffe & burgesses) x^{li} {& other} (wherof) v^{li} to (be paid to) hym y^t then takythe the Same offece uppon hym tawardes y^e chardges of kepynge of hys hous.

And who so beyng elect {hy} (Chefe) alderman by the wholl Councell or the most part of y^e Councell doth refuez the same offece (then) he to pay viij^{li} to ye {chamber & othere}³ (baliffe & burgesses wherof) iiij^{li} (to be payd) to hym y^t takythe y^e Same offece vpon hym tawardes the chardges in kepynge of hys hous & y^t all & euery y^e Subaldermen & Capytall burgesez be obediyent & do Stand & mayntayne the bely & hye alderman in all lauffull Caussez.

vacat.^a

Item y^t the gret letes ther Callyd the law days be

^a In a later hand.

¹ The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lady was 8 September.

² The penalty had become less heavy in the time of the revision. See Introduction, p. xxviii f.

³ Again the penalty is made less heavy.

ther kept twyez euery yer y^t ys to say on the Wennyday next after y^e feest of Sent mychell tharchaungell & the Wennyday next after low Sonday (except yt be for Causses lawfful) & y^t euery freholder & resyauntes be ther present vnder y^e payn of amercyament.

vacat.^a

vjs viij^d
for
euerye
defaut.^a

Item that there be ones euery monethe yn y^e yere at y^e least a hall to be kept in the Councell chambur at whuche Hall the belyf aldermen and capytall burgeses shalbe to commenⁱ & consoult to gether of thynges nessesary & to redress thos thynges that shall forten² to be enormyd³ and out of ordor & y^t euery alderman & Capytall burgesez be then & ther present vnder the peyne to forfeit euery offender vjs viij^d & y^t to be payd at or before the next hall then & ther holdon to the vse of y^e chamber except a lauffull lycence vnto hym or them geven by y^e belyf

vacat.^a

Item y^t when and so ofton as yt shall forten eny Alderman or Capytall burgess dysses⁴ y^t at the hall then next folloynge other aubull⁵ persones to be appwyntyd to Supply ther Rowme of hym dyssessed⁶ & euery Alderman So beynge elect to pay to the chambur x^s & euery burgess so elect vjs viij^d

Item Fromhensfurthe non of y^e aldermen nor Capytall Burgesez do dysclos⁷ nor declare furthe of y^e Councell chamber eny woordes or dedes spoken or done in the Councell chambur vnto eny other persones but only vnto thos persones y^t be of the Councell vnder y^e Payne of euery person so offendynge to forfeit for the fyrst defalt and pay to ye chambur v^{li}—for the Second defalt x^{li}—& for the thyrd defalt to be expulsed⁸ and after y^t neuer not to be exceptyd⁹ nor to be taken to be of the Councell

If any
refuse
for want

Item y^t when & as ofton as yt shall forten eny of the aldermen at the tyme of the eleccyon of the bely by

^a In a later hand.

¹ common, commune. ² fortune. ³ abnormal, irregular, disorderly.

⁴ decease. ⁵ able, substantial. ⁶ deceased. ⁷ disclose.

⁸ expelled. ⁹ accepted.

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of habi- Cours¹ be to be belyf & be not of abylyty² to supply
litie,^a the Rowme y^t then yf he do reffwez the same offece
not to euerie Suche person shall not make eny kynd of forfeit
make anj forfaie-
kinde of forfeite.^a for so reffusynge y^t offece

vacat.^a **Item** y^t aswell the belyf as also all & euerie thaldermen
& Capytall burgesez ffromhensfurthe euerie nyght
yerely from the xv^{to} day of December vntyll the xx^{to}
day after chystomas from the oure of fyve by the Clok
in the evenyng vntyll the our of eight by the Clok in
the evenyng vpon a lauffull warnynge have a lanthorne
hangyng in the Stret befor hys doore & ther in a
candill burnyng to give lyght in the Stretes vnder the
peyne to forfeit & pay to the chambur for euerie
defalt xij^d

vacat.^a **Item** that euerie Alderman & Capytall burges at all
and euerie generall pressessyon³ in Stratford hear after
be present & in a reddynges to go on pressessyon in hys
& their honest apparrell as in ther gownez & he y^t
makythe defalt to forfeit and pay for euerie defalt to the
vse of the Chambur xij^d So y^t he have not alawfull
excuez

Item y^t none of thaldermen nor Capytall burgesez
do enter into the counsell chambur when they be there
vnto Summonyd & appwyntyd but that he have a goune
vpon hys bac vnder the peyn of forfetynge xij^d

Item y^t non of thaldermen nor non of y^e Capytall
burgesez nother in the Councell Chambur nor elles
wheare do revyell on a nother but brotherlyk love to
gether & y^t after that they be entred into y^e Councell
chambur y^t they nor non of them depart not furthe but
in brotherly love (vnder the paynys of euerie offender to
forffett & paye for euerie defavt vjs viij^d)

Item y^t ther be euerie yere iiij Constabulles elect
and appwyntyd withen the burrow of Stratford & that
they do euerie monythe ones from mychelmas to

^a In a later hand.

¹ in turn.

² financial ability.

³ procession.

candylmas¹ and oftener as casse requyryth let call to them Certen of the Councell & Sum other honest men & kep & have a privey watche for the good Rewell of the toune of Stratford

Item y^t when yt shall forten eny of the aldermen or Capytall burgesez or eny of ther wyves to dysses² y^t then euery of the aldermen & burgesez then beyng alyve be present & in a reddyngess & gyve attendance in there honest apparrell & brynge the quors³ to y^e churche & ther contynew & abbyed⁴ devoutly vntyll the quors be buried

Item yf at eny tyme or tymeze hear after y^e bely of y^e burrow of Stratford vpon Aven Aldermen and Capytoll Burgesez of y^e Same burrow or eny of them or ther Successores ether by woordes or dedes or by eny other meanyz⁵ do ynvnt or procur eny maner of thynge or thynghes dede or dedes act or actes woord or woordes y^t shall or may be prejudycyall or hurtfull vnto the Corporacyon of Stratford aforsayd or vnto eny artycull therin declared y^t {then so y^t y^e belyf or eny of thaldermen so offendynge} euery of y^e⁶ so offendynge Shall forfeit & pay to y^e vse of y^e chambur ther xⁱⁱ in money & euery Capytall Burges so offendynge fyve poundes to the vse of the Chambur aforsaid & y^t to be levyed vpon ther goodes & Cattall to the vse of the chambur aforsaid

Aldermen or
burgesses
warned
to the
hall
come not
shall
forfaite xij^{d.a)}
xij^{d.b)}

Item that euery Alderman & Capytall Burges be personally at euery Hall vpon warnynge to them gevyn orelys to shewe alawfull cawse why they cannot be there vnto the Baylye before the halle be gatherid And to Agre vnto all suche orders as shalbe ther made in his Abcence in Payne of Forfetyng for euery default

[*Council Book A, pp. 124-9.*]

^a Added later.

¹ ² February.

⁴ abide.

^b Added in margin.

² decease.

⁵ means.

³ corse.

⁶ them.

c. Michaelmas 1557

[REVISED ORDERS.]

- ¹ Anno Philippi et
Mariae 4^{to} et 5^{to}
1557. Orders made by the Bayelie Aldermen and
Burgesses beinge the comon cowncell of the
Borough of Stratford for the gouernemt of
the Baylieff and Burgesses and inhabitantes
of the same as followth
- 1 ffrste : A comon Councell to be holden evorye Monthe
stet^a in the Yeere to begyn from the Swearinge of the Bay-
lieffe and other officers wth a Clause that none shall
disclose the matters debated or concluded in Councell.
and that they come therenvto wth Convenient {tyme
and wth appointed habytes} (gounes and the burgesses
in Clokes or gounes) None shall wthdrawe nor absent
himselfe, ffrom the Cowncells wthout leave of the
Baylieff
- 2 Item from henceforthe yearelye, on Wednesdaye next
stet^a before the Natyvyte of St Marye the blessed Vyrgyne.²
shall be theelection daye for the Baylieff Capital Alder-
man and other officers : At w^{ch} Daie none shall be absent
{nor wthout convenient habyte}. sub pena : {20^s}
- 3 Item ther officers Elected refusinge beinge of habylltye
stet^a shall forfeyt The Baylieff—x^{li} Capital Alderman—vij^{li}
The Constables—v^{li} Tasters—xl^s
- 4 Item That the Aldermen and Capital Burgesses shall
stet^a ayde and assist the Baylieffe Chieffe Alderman and other
officers in all things lawfull and honest bothe wth theire
advices and persons
- 5 Item there shall be holden in the Comon Hall euerye
vacua^a yeere twoe greate lawe daies viz. On the Wednesdaie

^a Added in margin.

¹ Probably in the handwriting of Roger Edgeworth the Steward. See
Introduction, p. xxx.

² 8 September.

- next after St. Mychaell Tharchangell and Wednesdaie
nexte after Lowsundaye
- 6 Item That none of the Companye assembled Doe presume to revyle Myscall or myssaye one theother. And stett^a yeat so fallinge out that they departe not vnreconcyled sub pena (vj^s viij^d) {as theire restraint of theire persons : And such ffyne as to the Baylieffe and Allderman shall be thought ffyttt}
- 7 Item that the fowre Constables (upon peyne to forfette {sub pena} vj^s viij^d a pece to the baliffe & burgesses of the boroughe of Stratford shall) call vnto them a Convenient nomber of the Companye {shall} once everye monthe stett^a (& to) keepe a privye watche for the good governement of the Towne, And whoe, so called, shall refuse to come havinge not A sufficient cause to be allowed by the Companye or more parte of them at the next Councell shall forseyte—(vj^s viij^d) to the balyff & burgesses of this boroughe
- 8 Item that none of the Companye doe (willfully) by stet^a+ woord deede or wrytinge speake, doe vtter or wryte anie thinge preiudytiall hurtfull or derogatory to or Chartre or encorporated estate of this Boroughe sub pena (xxⁱⁱ) {jC markes}
- [9] Item if anie of the companies or theire wyves shall dye stet^a All the rest beinge alyve and in healthe (beinge lawfully requested) shall accompanye the Corse to theire Buryalls. And in theire most honest Apparrells there to abyde in devoute manner vntill the ffunerall be ffynyshead {sub pena} (not havinge lawfull busynes to the Contrarye.)

[*Misc. Doc. ix. 20.*]

^a Added in margin.

THE OTHE OF THE ALDERMEN OR BURGESSES.

¹ Yow shall swere that as an (Alderman) or Capitall Burges of this Broughe of Stratford vpon Avon, yow shalle from hensfurthe maynteyne & defende the libertes and Rightes belonginge to the same to the vttermost of your wytt & power, yow shalle ayde & assiste the Baylyffe of this Broughe (for the tyme beinge) when yow shalbe thervnto required in gyvinge your best aduise & Counsell as well for the benefite of thys Towne as for the good government of the same, And the lawes, orders, & statutes heretofore made & hereafter to be made by the Baylyffe, Aldermen & Burgesses of thys Borowghe or the more parte of them, for the profett & better government of this Towne, yow shalle to your power obserue & keepe, and shall not disclose the speches vsed by any man in the Counsell Chamber concernyng the affaires of the sayd boroughe at any time, to any other, but suche as shalbe of the Counsell of this Borowghe, so helpe yow god &c.

[*Council Book A*, p. 352.]

1 October, 1557

[VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE.]

² Stratford' } Scil. Visus franci plegii Cum Curia et Sessione
super Aven' } pacis ibidem tentus primo die octobris
Annis regnorum philippi et marie dei
gratia regis et regine Anglie Hispaniarum
francie utriusque Cecilie Jerusalem' et
Hibernie fidei defensorum archeducum
Austrie ducum Burgundie mediolane et
Brabancie Comitum Haspurge Flandrie et
Tirolis quarto et quinto.

Essonie Scil. [Nil.]

¹ This is the Oath taken by John Shakespeare when he was appointed a Capital Burgess about this time—Michaelmas 1557. He was sworn one of the Jury on 1 October: p. 70.

² In the handwriting of Richard Symons.

<i>Positi in decennariis</i>		
<i>domini regis et domine</i>	Scil. [Nil.]	
<i>regine.</i>		
<i>xij Jurati</i>	Will'm Smythe John geffereys george Whatley	Jur.
	Will'm smythe Will'm mors. Ric. byddyl Rogerus Sadlar	Jur.
	Will'm Whatley Robert brat Adrean quyny frauncis harbadge lewes ap Will'm Ric. Symons W ^m mynske Ric. Hyll John shakspeyr ¹ John taylor	Jur.

deine ffyrst yt ys ordyned y^t all persones dwellynge wⁱn the burrow of Stratford havyng eny ynmakes do put away ther ynmakes wⁱn viij days next ensuyng this Court but only Suche as are & shalbe appwyntyd by the bely vnder the peyne of xx^s & ther bodyez to prison ther to remayne iij days & iij nyghtes

peine Item y^t no ynhabytantes in stratford from hensfurthe receve eny ynmake eny Suspect persones or straung Woman beyng w^t chyld vnder the peyne of xx^s
peine Item y^t euery tenaunt dwellynge wⁱn stratford from hensfurthe from tyme to tyme do kep clean ther gutteres in the Strettes vnder the peyne of euery offender to forfeit vjs viij^d

peine Item y^t no person dwellynge wⁱn stratford have nor Suffer hys or ther Swyne goyng at lardge in the Stretes vnder the peyne to forfeit for euery tyme found in the falt xij^d
peine Item y^t euery tenaunt wⁱn stratford well & suffycyently do repare the pavementes ouer & ageynst ther Soylles when & as often as they or eny of them shalbe ther vnto assigned or appwyntyd by the bely or hys sergeant vnder the peyne to forfeit vjs viij^d

peine Item y^t euery bochar do let carrey furthe of the toune after the our of ix by the cloke in the evenyng the ryddynge

¹ See 30 April. This time John Shakespeare attended and was sworn.

of the beastes bellyez garbages beastes pates & suche lyke
thynges vnder the peyne to forfeit for euery defalt xx^s

peine Item the xij men have ordeyned y^t all mukhylls beynge
Suffered & kept in the Stretes w^tin the lybertyez of Strat-
ford from hensfurthe shalbe to the vse of the chambur &
y^t no ynhabytant w^tstand the same order vnder y^e peyne
of vj^s viij^d

peine Item y^t non dwellynge w^tin the burrow of Stratford after
xiiij days now next comynge ¹ be a vytteor or a typlar but
Suche as shalbe assigned & appwyntyd by the bely of the
burro of Stratford & y^t they be bounde by recognysence
w^t ther Suffycyent shurtyez accordynge to a statute pro-
vyded in that behalf & vnder the peyne to forfeit for euery
tyme offendynge iij^s iiiij^d & y^t forfeit to be thone half to
the chambur & thother half to ye sergeantes

peine Item y^t no draper mercer fyshemonger or glouer after vij
days now next comynge have ther boothes trestylles &
boordes standyng in the Stretes but only at the feyre
tyme & vpon the market day vnder the peyne forfetynge
for every defalt iij^s iiiij^d Wherof the on moyty to be to the
vse of the chambur & thother moyty to y^e sergeauntes

peine Item yt ys further o[r]dyned y^t from hensfurthe all bras-
yares commynge to stratford feyres shall have ther Stan-
dynges in eny other place or places but only in the (chapell
stret or) churche Stret {bytwene y^e chappell and the alms-
hous} vnder the peyn of euery Consortor abettor councellar
the contrary to forfeit for euery defalt xl^s

peine Item y^t non ynhabytant hear to fore have be[en] abrwar
and at hys & ther pleasures have geven vp brwynge &
now of late have set vp brwynge ageyn or do intend to
be a commen bruuar ageyn shall not be a commen bruuar
& tunne furthe aele vntyll suche tyme y^t he or they have
payd ther forfeit late made & provyded for the same vnder
the peyne to forfeit vjⁱ xiij^s iiiij^d & y^t forfeit to be to the
vse of the chambur

¹ See the further meeting of the Court on 14 October.

peine Item y^t no persone ne persones from hensfurth dwellynge wⁱn the burrow of Stratford beyng knowne not to be a commen bacar shall bake eny bred to Syll vnder the peyne to forfeit for euery batche of bred y^t he or they do or shall bake contrary to thys order vj^s viij^d (tociens cociens¹) to be payd to the chambur

peine Item y^t no Sengle man dwellynge in Stratford after Sonday now next commynge do Weyre about hym wⁱn the burrowe or lybertyez of Stratford eny byll Sword Woodknyf or Dagger or eny other Suche lyke weypon vnder the peyne of forfeiture of the same weypon or weypons so woron & ther bodyez to prison² ther to remayne at the beyles pleasur provyded always y^t eny Sengell man may have & beyr about hym eny of the Said kynd of Weyponnes in rydyng or goynge furthe of the toune about hys honest byssenes facultyez or occapecyones & not offendynge this ordor & y^t they nor non of them be furthe of ther maisteres howssez after the oure of eight by the cloke in the evenynge vnder lyke peyne

peine Item y^t no bruar from hensfurthe do twne furthe eny bruyng of ale vntyll the taster have alowyd the same ale to be good & Wholsum vnder the peyne to forfeit for euery defalt xx^s

peine Item y^t no persone shall revyell ageynst eny offecer vnder the peyne to forfeit xx^s tociens cociens.

merc. Robert perot (ij^s iij^d) for revylenge & Spekyng of obprobryous woordes a geynst {Symons beyng one of }³ y^e constabull he standes amercyd

merc. { Roger Sadler for havyng hys mukhyll in Henley stret he Standes amersyd }

merc. Henry Sydnall for bakynge of bred contrary to the order of the bacares book & brekyng thassyez he standes amercyd xx^s & y^t he bake no more bred to syll vntil he have agreed w^t y^e bacarres vnder the peyne of xl^s

¹ totiens quotiens.

² Introduction, p. xxxi.

³ An interesting correction by the writer. Old Symons stood a good deal on his dignity. *Notes and Queries*, 29 Jan. 1921, pp. 83-84.

- merc.* ¹ Raf Hylton (vj^d) for hys wyf beynge a hedge brekar & terynge & carryenge a way of nycholes hedge at {Henley} grene hyll stret and he Standes amersyd
- merc.* ² morres [blank] (xx^d) mysteres clares man for makynge a fray in the hye stret vpon ij straunge men kynnesmen to Robert perot he Standes amersed
- merc.* Morres [blank] (xx^d) mysterys Clares man for makynge a fray vpon m^r Walsyngham & other he Standes amersyd
- merc.* edmund barret ³ for evell rewell kepynge in hys hous & mayntaynenge & recevenge of a Strumpet woman he standes amersyd xx^s
- peine* Item y^t all bere & ale bruares dwellynge in stratford & brw bere & ale to Syll from hensfurthe shall syll bere & ale by the pot w^tin ther housses not ouer & above but after the rate of ij^d the galon & ij^d ob staell & y^t they do not deny but to Syll to neyboures by the pot furthe of ther housses small drynk ij galons a penny under peyne of xl^s & y^t ther mysures be seallyd in lyke peyne.
- peine* Item y^t no tenaunt w^tin Stratford do Suffer eny Straunger to ley in eny barley but y^t they do convert the Same barley into malt w^tin Stratford vnder the peyne of xl^s & the byar of the same barley to forfeit ther barley, provyded y^t eny badjar beynge admyttyd by the Justices to lode iij horses accordynge to the Statute & y^t no badjar do by more barley yⁿ they carre away w^t them
- merc.* ⁴ Item Robert Rogeres for revylenge the offeceres w^t obprobryous wordes he stands amersyd iijs iiijd
- merc.* Item the new Curryar (xij^d) for kepyng evell rewell in his hous he standes amerced {iijs iiijd}
- merc.* ⁵ thomas dycson for drawynge blud vpon lewes ap william he standes amerced iijs iiijd
- merc.* Item y^t the beast market at euery feyr hear after be holden in the roder stret & in no other place
- merc.* Item y^t Robert Peret (ij^s) & william peret (ij^s) ⁶ & mystryss

¹ Introduction, p. liv.² Introduction, p. xxxi.³ Of the Crown Inn in Fore Bridge Street.⁴ Introduction, p. xxviii.⁵ Introduction, p. xxxi.⁶ Brother of Robert Perrott.

waterman (ij^s) ¹ for not gevynge the tasteres knowledge to
asay of ther ale befor they tonne hyt furthe & for
makynge vnwholsum aell they stand amersyd

merc. Item Robert Salysbery (xij^d) for tunnyng forthe of vn-
wholsum ale he standes amercyd

peine Item y^t the Salteres commynge to stratford feyres shall
stand w^t ther waynez w^tin y^e lybarty of the burrow of
stratford in Henley stret & nowhear elles

peine Item y^t none do bake bred to syll but thos y^t shall be
agreabull to the ordor in the bacares book vnder the peyne
to forfeit for euery batche vj^s viij^d

merc. Item Richard sharp in churche stret for kepynge evell
rewell &c in his hous he standes amerced ij^s iiiij^d

Item the xij men have ordenyd ther trysty &
welbelouyd ffrauncis harbadge bely for y^{is}
yere Item they have ordenyd ther wel-
belouyd John Jeffereys alderman
Item they have lyke ordenyd william
myske Richard Symons Richard bydyl
& Richard hyll cunstabulles
Item y^{ey} have ordenyd {Ric. bydyll} Roger
sadler & lewez ap William chamburlens
Item they have ordenyd W^m tylor & Willm
smythe habardasshar tasteres

*Electio
officiariorum* Scil.

Jurati ibidem presentant quod Henricus grene qui de
domino tenuit libere per Cartam vnum tenementum et
vnum gardinum adiacentem in le churchestrete citra
vltimam Curiam obiit et quod Willelmus grene est filius
et heres predicti Henrici grene et fecit domino fidelitatem
et admissus est, &c.

peine Item y^t no tenaunt w^tin the burrow of Stratford from
hensfurthe nor ther seruantes dyge eny gravell in gravell
pyt in tyncar stret vnder the peyne of forfetyng for
euery defalt—xx^s

Jurati ibidem presentant quod thomas rementon qui tenuit

¹ Widow of the late Alderman Thomas Dickson *alias* Waterman. She was
the daughter of John Townsend of the Wold at Snitterfield.

de domino dimidiam partem tenementi cum gardino adiacente in churche Stret [citra vltimam Curiam obijt et quod] filius et heres Thome Rymentone fecit domino fidelitatem et admissus este inde tenens &c.

ffurares { lewes ap william &
John taylor

[*Misc. Doc. vii. 35.*]

14 October, 1557

[VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE.]

[Stratford'
Super Aven']

[Visus]¹ franci plegii cum Curia ballivi aldermannorum et Burgensium de Stratford² tentus ibidem decimo quarto die octobris annis regnorum [phil]ippi et marie dei gratia regis et regine anglie Hispaniarum ffrancie vtriusque Cecilie Jerusalem' et hibernie fidei defensorum archeducum Austrie ducum burgundie mediolane et brabancie Comitum Haspurge flandrie et tirolis quarto et quinto.

[xij Jur.]	Henricus Byddyll	Willms mynske Joh'es tayler Joh'es bell Rogerus grene	Jur.
	Robertus brat		
	Lowdoic ap willm		
	Rogerus Sadler		
	Joh'es page	Christofer Smythe Robertus myles	Jur.
	Robertus Salesbury		
	edmundus barret		
	Ric. Aunge		

tenens per Qui dicunt Super Sacramentum Suorum quod le *indenturam* tria tenementa in churche Stret quod Johannes Combes gent. habet per Indenturam Sunt in ruina valde et quod predictus Johannes Combes vel assignatos Suos bene et Sufficienter reparabit dictum

¹ In the handwriting of Richard Symons.

² Introduction, p. xxvii.

	tenementum ante festum nativitatis Sancti Johannis baptiste proximum sequentem in pena forfeclare indenturam suam
<i>tenens ad voluntatem</i>	Item quod tenementum in churche Stret nunc in tenura agnetis nycolles est in ruina valde
<i>tenens per Indenturam</i>	Item quod basell burdet bene et Sufficienter reparabit tenementum suum in churche Stret ante festum nativitatis Sancti Johannis baptiste nunc proximum sequentem Sub pena forfeclare indenturam Suam
<i>Indentura</i>	Item quod agnes Smythe vidua bene et Sufficienter reparabit tenementum suum in churche Stret ante festum nativitatis Sancti Johannis baptiste proximum sequentem Sub pena forfeclare indenturam Suam Item quod Ricardus Harrenton bene et sufficienter faciat munimentum suum in churchestret inter terram Willelmi Clopton armigeri et terram burgensium de Stratford ante festum purificacionis beate marie sub pena forfeclare domino vj ^s viij ^d
<i>Indentura</i>	Item quod Ricardus Sponer bene et sufficienter reparabit tenementum suum in chappelstret Citra festum nativitatis Sancti Johannis baptiste proximum sequentem Sub pena forfeclare Indenturam Suam Item quod tenementum in quo Thomas burford modo inhabitavit in shypstret est valde in Ruina
<i>Indentura</i>	Item quod [blank] pykkerell vidua bene et Sufficienter reparabit tenementum suum in shypstret citra festum sancti Johannis baptiste proximum sequentem sub pena forfeclare indenturam suam
<i>Indentura</i>	Item quod Willelmus Smythe Corvesor bene et Sufficienter reparabit tenementum suum in Shypstret et vnum orreum in Walcastret ¹ alias Ded lone ante festum nativitatis Sancti Johannis baptiste Sub pena forfeclare indenturas Suas & further yt the Same William Smythe athyssyd ² & before ye next Court do redelyuer & brynge a geyn to Wateres

¹ Walker Street.² At this side.

hous¹ all Suche peces of Tymber rafteres & Stones
y^t he tooke from Walteres hous Sub pena xl^s

- Indentura* Item quod Johannes geffereys bene et Sufficienter reparabit tenementum Suum in Shypstret quod tenet per indenturam ibidem vocatum shreves hous² ante festum natalis Sancti Johannis baptiste Sub pena forfeclare indenturam Suam
- Indentura* Item quod adreanus quyny bene et sufficienter reparabit vnum tenementum in hy stret ibidem nunc in tenura Margarete rogeres viduae ante festum Sancti michaelis archangelis proximum Sequentem & furthermor y^t adreane quyny at or athyssyd the next Court do Sew his indenture of the Same hous before the bely aldermen &c Sub pena of forfetyng his bond oblygatori & also of his lees
- Indentura* Item quod [blank] Dege³ bene et Sufficienter reparabit tenementum suum in quo modo inhabitat in hy stret ante festum nativitatis Sancti Johannis baptiste sub pena forfeclare indenturam Suam &c.
- Indentura* Item quod matheus bromley bene et Sufficienter reparabit tenementum Suum in quo modo inhabitat in roderstret in omnibus necessariis citra festum natalis Sancti Johannis baptiste Sub pena forfeclare indenturam &c.
- Item presentimus quod tenementum in quo Rogerus lynsycum⁴ nuper inhabitavit est in ruina valde
- Indentura* Item quod filia nicholai wylson bene et Sufficienter reparabit tenementum suam quod tenet per indenturam in henley stret ante festum natalis sancti Johannis baptiste proximum sequentem Sub pena forfeclare indenturam Suam.

¹ Walter's house.

² Shrieve's house.

³ Thomas Degee the weaver. Introduction, p. liii.

⁴ In Henley Street. Roger Lyncecombe and his wife Margery had gone to live in Snitterfield, where Richard Shakespeare helped to make the inventory of his goods on 21 April, 1559. After her husband's death Margery dwelt in a house in Rother Market.

- Indentura* Item quod elizabeth marten vidua bene et Sufficienter reparabit tenementum suum in quo modo inhabitavit in burgestret citra festum natalis sancti Johannis baptiste sub pena forfeclare Indenturam suam.
- Item quod tenementum in mydell rew in quo modo elsabethe Jones inhabitavit est in ruina valde et non tenet per Indenturam
- Indentura* Item quod thomas whyt bene et Sufficienter reparabit vnum tenementum in medyl rewe quod tenet per Indenturam citra festum natalis Sancti Johannis baptiste proximum Sequentem Sub pena forfeclare Indenturam Suam &c. & y^t he brynge his lesse to Shew at the next Court vnder the Same peyne
- Indentura* Item quod [blank] Cooley vidua bene et Sufficienter reparabit unum tenementum in le mydyl rew quod tenet per indenturam citra festum Sancti Johannis baptiste proximum sequentem Sub pena forfeclare indenturam &c.
- Item quod vnum tenementum in grene hyl stret in quo modo [blank]^x dylvyngie inhabitavit est in Ruina valde
- Item y^t all tenautes havynge ynmakes do avoyd ther inmakes out of ther housses but suche as are lycencyd & appwyntyd by the bely & aldermen athyssyd the feast of al Sentes vnder the peyne of euery offendour doyngie the contrary to forfeare to the chambur iij^s iiij^d & that no tenant after that day receve into ther housses eny ynmakere wth out lycence of y^e bely vnder the pene of xx^s
- Item y^t no tennant havynge hys hous by less & parcelles of the Same be tyled shal not let the tyllyngie decay & thatche the same vnder the peine to forfeare ther lessez

Symons Senescallus

[*Misc. Doc. vii. 36.*]

^x Thomas.

15 February, 155⁷

[ACCOUNT OF MASTER SMITH FOR THE NEW BELLS
AT THE PARISH CHURCH.]

¹ M^d y^t M^r Smythe ² accompte made & takyn y^e xvth day of February Annis regnorum philippi et marie regis et regine quarto et quinto, towchynge & concernyng y^e belles & y^e corporacyon of Stratford

Money	Inprimis for bell Mettell	xlij ^{li}
y ^t M ^r	of adrean quyny for bel mettell	vij ^{li}
Smythe received.	{ of M ^r Waterman ³	iiij ^{li} }
Item he receved in other reconynges the		
	same tyme	vj ^{li} xij ^s iiij ^d
	Item he rec. of sir edward alcok ⁴	vij ^s
	Item he rec. for y ^e vicar ⁵	xx ^s
	Sum rec. ——	iij ^{xx} j ^{li} xvj ^d

Money	Inprimis to y ^e lord treserar ⁶	ijj ^{xx} xv ^{li}
y ^t M ^r	More payd y ^e rest of y ^e belles	xj ^{li} x ^s
Smythe payd.	Paid to y ^e clark of theschequer	ijj ^s
	Paid to y ^e Kynges audytor	v ^s
	Sum payd	iiij ^{xx} vj ^{li} xvij ^s

Yn this ryconyne above recyted ther ys det owyng to M^r Smythe xxv^{li} xvjs vij^d

Nota bene out of Whuche Said sum of xxv^{li} xvjs vij^d M^r Smythe Must abate money y^t he receved of george Whatley whuche he dothe partly deny the Sum of ix^{li}

[Wheler Papers, I. 29.]

¹ In the handwriting of Richard Symons. See p. 86.

² Alderman Smith, mercer, farmer of the College tithes.

³ Alderman Dickson *alias* Waterman, who was just deceased: see p. 74, note 1.

⁴ Late Subwarden of the College, then Vicar of Wootton Wawen. He was just dead, the inventory of his goods having been made on 29 October, 1557.

⁵ Roger Dyos.

⁶ Introduction, p. xliv.

23 April, 1558

[VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE.]

'Stratford' } Scil. Visus ffranci plegii cum Curia et Sessione
 Burgus } pacis tentus ibidem vicesimo tercio die
 Aprilis Annis regnorum Phillipi et marie
 dei gratia regis et regine anglie hispaniarum
 francie vtriusque Cecilie Jerusalem' et
 Hibernie fidei defensorum Archducum
 Austrie ducum burgundie mediolane et
 brabantie Comitum Haspurge flaundrie et
 tirolis quarto et quinto.

Essonie [Nil.]

<i>xij Jur.</i>	• Willms Smythe	Jur.	• Roger Sadler
	• george Whatley		• lodwic ap Willm
	Robertus peret		• Humfridus plymley
	• Robertus brat		• Richardus byddyll
	• Willms mynske	Jur.	• Johnes taylor
	• John lews		Robertus mylles
	• Ric. Symons		Rogerus grene
	• Ric. Hyll		Robertus Salesbery

peyne In primis yt ys ordyned y^t all persones dwellynge w^tin the burro of Stratford havynge eny ynmake at thys present tyme do put away ther ynmake w^tin vij days next after this Court vnder the peyne of xx^s & ther bodyez to remayne in prison iij dayes & iij nyghtes

peyne Item y^t no ynhabytant w^tin this burro fromhensfurthe receve eny Suspect person or Straunger woman beyng w^t chyld vnder the peyne of xx^s

peyne Item y^t euery tenant w^tin thys burro from tyme to tyme do kepe Cleane ther gutteres in the Stret Sub pene vjs viij^d

peyne y^t no tenant w^tin the burro Suffer ther Swyne to go at lardge in the Stret vnder y^e peyne for euery defalt vj^d

¹ The handwriting is that of Richard Symons.

² For the 'pricking' (marking with a dot) see p. 85. It should be noted that the four unpricked above are all brewers. The brewing interest was strong on the Jury, but was outvoted.

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- peyne* y^t euery ynhabytant wⁱn this burro do well & Suffycyently repare the pavementes ouer & ageynst y^r Soylles when & as often as they or eny of them shall be y^r vnto appwyntyd by y^e sergeauntes Sub pene vj^s viij^d
- peyne* y^t euery bochar do let carry furthe of y^e toune after y^e our of ix by the cloke in the evenyng the ryddynge of ther beas bellys [and] beastes pates vnder the peyne for euery defalt xl^s
- peyne* y^t no ynhabytant wⁱn Stratford fromhensfurthe do presume to be a Comen brwar but only Suche as shalbe assigned & appwyntyd by the bely accordynge to thorderes hear to fore had & made vnder the peyne of xl^s {tocience cocience}
- peyne* & y^t no person wⁱn this burro from hensfurthe be a typlar or a commen vyttelar but y^t fyrst the be bounden by recognysaunce accordynge to a Statute provyded for the Same, except thos persones whuch Stand & are boundon by recognysaunce vnder the peine of xx^s {tocience cocience}
- peyne* Item y^t nother Henry Sydnall Roger london thomas hunt Robert balamy {william brace} peter Smart thomas Rychardson nor non of them nor no other person wⁱn the burrow of Stratford from hensfurthe but Suche as be & shalbe assigned & appwyntyd by the bely do preswome to brwe & tone furthe eny aell ether by the dosens or by the pot vnder the peine of euery offendour [to] forfeit for euery defalt xl^s
- peyne* Item y^t no ynhabytante wⁱn Stratford y^t hear to fore have be a brware & at hys & ther pleasures have geven vp brwynge & now of late have Set vp brwynge ageyn or do entend to be a commen brware shall not be a commen brwar & tone furthe aell vntyll Suche tyme y^t he or they have payd ther forfettes late made & provyded for the Same vnder the peine to forfeit for euery defalt xl^s to y^e vse of y^e chambur
- peyne* Item y^t no person dwellynge wⁱn the burro & not beyng a Commen bacar & admyttyd do fromhensfurthe

bake eny bred to Syll vnder the peine of xx^s tociens
cociens

peine Item y^t no Sengleman beynge not a houholder from-
hensfurthe do were about hym wⁱn the burro of Strat-
ford eny byll Swerd woodknif dagger or eny other
Suche lyk wepon Sub pene to forfeit the Same wepon &
ther bodyez to prison : provyded always y^t eny Suche
sngle man may have & bere about hym eny of y^e sayd
kynd of weapon in rydynge or goyng furthe of the
toune about hys honest busynes & not offendynge this
ordor

peine Item y^t no brwar from hensfurthe do tone furthe eny
brwyngē of aell vntyll the tasteres have alowed y^e same
aell to be good & wholsum Sub pene xx^s tocience
cocience

peine {Item y^t no ynhabytant wⁱn Stratford do Suffer eny
Straunger to ley in his hous eny barley hear after to be
bought but y^t they do convert the Same barley into
malt Sub pene of xl^s & the barley so bought to be
forfeited}

{Item y^t the beast market at euery feyr hearafter to be
holden in the roder stret & in no other place}

peine Item y^t no person wⁱn the burro of Stratford from
hensfurthe nor ther seruantes do dyg eny gravell in the
pyttes in tynkar stret Sub pene xx^s tocience cocience

peine Item y^t no ynhabytant wⁱn the burro of Stratford have
or let kep ther shyp or beas in the bancroft ouer &
above iij owres Sub pene vj^s viij^d tocience cocience &
straungeres to have ther shyp or cattall goynge no
lenger ther not ouer & above ij owres in lyke peyne

peine Item y^t the Salteres commynge to Stratford feyre w^t ther
Salt waynes do not make Saell of ther Salte furthe of
the burro toune of Stratford for the feyr tyme Sub
pene vj^s tocience cocience

peine Item y^t the brasyares fromhensfurthe at euery feyr tyme
do pytche ther bothes to syll ther ware in eny other
place but only in y^e churche Stret alunge the gyld hall

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vnder the peyne of euery Councillar to the contrary to forfeit for euery defalt xx^s

- peine* Item y^t no tenant w^tin the burro have eny Swyne goynge at lardge in the bancroft nor in no other place w^tin stratford vn ryngyd vnder the peyne of forfetynge for euery Swyne iiij^d tociens cociens & y^t no person have nor dryve ther Cartes nor waynes thurro the bancroft vnder the peine iij^s iiij^d tocience cocience
- m'* m^r geffereys m^r bydyll for ther shyp goynge in the bancroft contrary to thordor of the last court they stand amerced
- m'* William brace Henry Sydnall Roger london Robert balamy peter Smart thomas Rychardson thomas hunt for brwynge of aell & y^e Same Syllynge out by the dosson & by the pot they Stand a mersed
- m'* thomas grene for pleynge at tabulles in hys hous for money & beynge taken in the falt by the constabull & vppon hym made a fray & dyd draw blood contrary to the Kynges peace he Standes a mercyd¹
- m'* Basell burdett for many & Syndre tymez recevyng of vacabundes & Sturdy beggares & for evell rewell kepynge in hys hous he Standes amercyd
- m'* William tylar beynge a taster & not apperyd he Standes amercyd
- m'* Robert cox for receved of lyngam doughter beynge brought to bed of chyld in his hous he Standes amercyd
- m'* Roger shyttyll bottell for havynge a ynmake & [blank] waterford for havyng a yn make they are amercyd
- m'* Item y^t person y^t hathe receved m^r Cookes seruant beynge w^t chyld he Standes amercyd
- peine* y^t euery tenant do cleans & kep cleane ther gutteres from hensfurthe from tyme to tyme sub pene iij^s iiij^d & y^t euery tenant do ryd ther Soylles of logges & blokes in y^e stretes befor thassencyon day² in lyk peyne

¹ Introduction, pp. xxi, xxxvi.

² May 19.

- m'* Item Henrye Sydnall {Roger london} thomas hunt
Robert balamy {William brace} peter smart & thomas
rychardson for brwynge ale in ther housses & Syl furthe
by the pot they stand a mercyd
- m'* Item y^t John nevell mystrys waterman¹ for lettynge
donne brwynge & Settynge vp brwynge a geyn at ther
pleasures w^tout lycence they Stand amercyd
- m'* John Jamson edward hemys {Richard london} for
bakynge bred & sold the Same contrary to thorder of
y^e court they Stand a mercyd
- nota m'* Henry Sydnall for brekyng the order of the bacares
bene booke & wyll not do hys dwyty ther for he Standes
a mercyd
- m'* lews ap W^m & Alice pyrry William brace for dyggyng
gravell in tynkarstret they Standes a mercyd
- m'* All the bochares for shedyng beast blood in the Stretes
they Stand a mercyd
- m'* Humfrey ranoldes for bowllyng in his ground he
standes a mercyd
- peine* y^t all persones havynge dogges & bytchys that they do
not suffer them to go at lardge nether in the toune nor
in the pareshe churche vnder the peyne of euery owner
of Suche dogges or bytchys to forfeit iiiij^d tociense
cocience & y^t non have eny bandogges goynge at lardge
in the Stret vn moseled in lyke peyne iiiij^d tociens
cociens the sergeantes to have y^e forfelettes &c.
- m'* John lord for makynge afray vpon William rychard-
sones seruant he Standes amercyd
- peyne* Item y^t no sengellman fromhensfurthe were eny dagger
or other weyon w^tin the burro vnder the y^e [sic] peyne
ther parentes & masteres of euery suche Sengleman
werynge a dagger to forfeit & pay xij^d for euery defalt²
- peyne* ³ y^t ys further ordened at this Court y^t all ale brwares

¹ Widow of the late Alderman Thomas Dickson *alias* Waterman.

² Introduction, p. xxxi.

³ This seems to be the order against which the Brewers on the Council
voted: see p. 80.

CHAMBERLAINS' ACCOUNT, 29 SEPT., 1558 85

fromhensfurthe shall syll new ale vnder the hearsyve for xvij^d the dossen xij galones to y^e dossen good & wholsum & euery typlar shall syll staell ale beynge clere & wholsum for ij^d y^e galon, & y^e brwar shall syll ij galenes Small aell a penny good & wholsum & not above theis prizel vnder y^e peine of xx^s tocience cocience &c.

peine Item y^t all bacares y^t bake bred to Syll shall Syll iiij lovys for a penny ij loves for a penny a lof for a penny bultyll w^t a lauffull bulter¹ & y^t they kep thassyez vnder the peyne of euery offendour to forfeit x^s tocience cocience

All that be prycked dyd agre to the order for brewyng of ale after the assise above wrytten²

ffurares	lodovicus ap wyllyam Ric. Symons Ric. Byddell Ric. Hyll	}
----------	--	---

Jur.

[*Misc. Doc. vii. 34.*]

29 September, 1558

[THE ACCOUNT³ OF LEWES AP WILLIAMS AND ROGER SADLER :
MADE BY ROGER SADLER.]

Thaccomp made of lews ap William & Roger Sadler chamburle[n]s in the Feest of Sent mychell tharchaungell in the fyvythe & Syxt yeres of the reigne of kynge phyllip & quene mary for oone Wholl yere then last past & the Sayd chambur-

¹ ‘Boulted with a lawful boulter’.

² See p. 80.

³ The earliest extant Chamberlains' Account, and apparently an official summary by Richard Symons, the Town Clerk. We may note his characteristic spelling—*Chamburlen*, *Sent*, *aungel*, *whuch*. The Account at this time was made up at Michaelmas, and covered the period from Michaelmas preceding. Later, while this financial twelvemonth, in the *main* particulars, was observed, the date of making the Account was postponed until after Christmas, and items of receipt and expenditure subsequent to Michaelmas often crept in.

lens are in det to the chambur x^s Whuche remaynythe in the handes of the sayd lews ap Wylliam vnto the next accompt¹

M^d also y^t Whearas the chambur at thys present tyme ys in det vnto master Smythe a certen Summe of money as in the other Syed of this leaf y^t dothe apper xx^s at this present tyme thereof ys payd vnto hym²

[*Wheler MS. i. 30.*]

[CORPORATION MEMORANDA.]

{ M^d that wheras the chambur was late in det to m^r Smyth money leyd out for the belles the Sum of liij^{li} xvij^s
Whear of ther ys payd vnto hym at thys last accompte

in certen ryconynges	vj ^{li} xij ^s iiiij ^d
& also for sir edward alcocke	vij ^s
& for the Vycar of Stratford	xx ^s } ³

M^d y^t whearas Danyell phyllyppes⁴ of Stratford at thys present tyme doth Wrongfully hold from the Chamber as parcell of hys possessyon on gardyn ground in Stratford in Ded lane alias chappell lane ther Set & beyng betwene a barne & a gardyne of y^e heires of thomas phyllyppes on the West part & a parcell of ground of the heires of thomas Samwell A parcell of ground of the heires of brookes a parcell of ground of y^e heires of Henry ----- a parcell of ground whuche belungyd to the late co[lege of] Stratford & a parcell of ground of Adrean quyny on [the] est part & Strechythe in lenkyth from the said ded [lane] vnto a clos lyeng in the lordshyp of old Stratford callyd the teynter clos.

M^d y^t wheras the yerely rent of y^e tythes of old stratford busshopston & Welcum do amount vnto xxxiiij^{li}: out of whuch sayd xxxiiij^{li}, xxij^{li} a yere ys dwe to be payd to y^e vicar of Stratford for hys Stypend & tenthes, & x^{li} yerely to be payd to the Curat or pareshe pryst of Stratford for hys Stypend & ij^{li}

¹ The balance of 10s. handed over to Lewes ap Williams 'unto the next Account' shows that the Account above was made by his colleague, Sadler, who was therefore the acting Chamberlain for 1557-8.

² The Account referred to on the other side of the leaf is that for the new bells of the Parish Church, dated 15 Feb., 1558. See p. 79.

³ See p. 79.

⁴ Buried 30 Sept., 1558.

resydwe of the Sayd xxxiiij^{li} ys dwe to be payd yerely by the ffarmer or ffarmeres of Stratford to the vse of y^e chambur ther

M^d that Wheras in the ffeest of Sent mychell tharchaungell in the yere of o^r lord god a thousand fyve hundred fyfty & eight the Chambur ys in det vnto Richard Harrenton the Sum of xl^s Whiche xl^s the Sayd Harrenton dyd lend vnto the purchesynge of the corperacyon, & wheras the Said Harrenton at thys present tyme hathe & holdythe for terme of yeres yet for to cum of y^e chambur one shop w^t a Solar ouer the Same in Stratford in mydell rew Callyd bottes Shop, the bely y^t now y^s¹ aldermen & burgesez at thys present tyme are fully concluded concordyd & a greed y^t the Said Richard Harrenton & hys assignez for recompens of & for the said xl^s shall have hold occupay & enjoy the same shop & Solar for terme of Syx yeres now next comynge w^tout eny other rent payenge Savynge only the chef rent.

[*Misc. Doc. xii. 9.*]

30 September, 1558

[VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE.]

² Stretforde *Scil.*

Visus franci plegii Cum Curia et Sessione pacis tentus ibidem xxx^o die Septembris Annis Regnorum Philippi et Marie Regis et Regine Anglie hispaniarum francie vtriusque Cicilie Jerusalem' et Hibernie fidei defensorum Archiducum Austrie ducum Burgundie Mediolani et Brabancie Comitum Haspurge flandrie et Tirolis quinto et sexto.

Essonie [Nil.]

xij

Jurati

pro

domino

Rege et

domina

Regina

Scil.

Georgius Whateley
Radus Cawdrey
Ricus Byddell
Willms Mynskes

Ricus Hyll
Johes Taylor
Willms Tyler
Johes Shakespere

Jur.

¹ Francis Harbage.

² In the handwriting of the Steward, Roger Edgeworth (?). Note the spelling Shakespere.

Willms Smythe, mercer Edm. Barrett Ricus Lane Ricus Cotton	Willms Perrett Johnes lorde Robtus Salesburye
	} Jur. } Jur.

- ¹ Presente- Agnes mechyn (xij^d) for havyng & kepynge [blank] goodbarne an ynmake contrary to thordor of y^e court she standes amercyd xij^d
- mentes Item [blank] for recevynge a Strawng woman beyng brought to bed in his hous standes amercyd
- merc. Item y^t Ric. lyghtfott (vj^d) {John Hunt} for havynge {ther} his swyne goynge at lardge in y^e stretes he standes a mercyd iiiij^d
- merc. Item george banester (vj^d) & Ric. banester (vj^d) for beyng commen typlares contrary to the Statut they Stand amercyd xij^d
& that they take doune ther aelstakes w^tin iiiij days next after y^s court vnder y^e peyne of x^s
- merc. Item fraunces harbadge (vj^s viij^d) {& thomas hunt} for sufferynge the brasyares to Stand afor {ther Soylles they} (his dore he) Standes amerced
- peine Item y^t euery housholder dwellynge w^tin the burrow of Stratford w^tin xiiij days next after this Court do put a way ther yn makes vnder the peyne of xx^s & y^t none receive eny ynmakes from hensfurthe in lyke peyne w^tout lysaunce of y^e bely
- peine Item y^t no ynhabytant w^tin this burrow from hensfurthe receive eny straunger woman beyng w^t chyld to be brought to bed in ther housses vnder the peyne of xx^s
- peine Item y^t euery housholder w^tin this burrow befor ther Soylles do from tyme to tyme kep cleane ther gutteres vnder the peyne of euery offendour to forfeit iij^s iiij^d tociens quociens
- peine Item y^t euery bochar do let carre furthe of the burro at seasonable tymez the ryddygnes of ther beastes

¹ From this point onwards in the handwriting of Symons.

bellys garbages & beastes pates vnder the peyn of eny offendour to forfeit for euery defalt vjs viij^d

peine Item y^t no ynhabytant w^tin stratford from hensfurthe presume to be a commen brwar but only suche as are or shalbe assigned & appwyntyd by the bely vnder the peyne of euery offendour to forfeit for euery defalt xx^s

peine Item y^t none ynhabytant w^tin stratford be a commen vyttelar or a typlar w^tout a lysaunce vnder the peyne of xx^s

peine Item y^t none do presume to be a commen brwar but suche as be & shalbe assigned & appwyntyd by the bely vnder the peine xl^s tociens quocydens

peine Item y^t non havynge ther Swyne goynge at lardge in the Stretes nor in the bancroft vnrungyd nor in eny londes a bout stratford {nor ther Dukkes} vnder the peyne of euery offendour to forfeit for euery defalt for euery Swyne iiij^d

peine Item y^t none from hensfurthe do bake bred to Syll but only the commen bacares & y^t they & euery of them have & kep a leyfull marke vpon hys bred vnder the peyne to forfeit for euery defalt xl^s & y^t euery bacar from tyme to tyme kep thassyez vnder the peyn to forfeit for euery defalt iijs iiijd & y^t to be payd w^tin xiiij days next after euery court after the falt ys or shalbe found, & to forfeit al the bred beyng proved to lyght

merc. Item the cunstabulles present y^t Humfrey Homys made afraiay vpon Robert Hall wherfor he ys amerced vj^d

merc. Item Robert Mors (ij^d) mystryss waterman (ij^d) edmund barret (ij^d) chrysrouer Smythe (ij^d) gryffyn vp Robert (ij^d) [Thomas] buntynge (ij^d) Ric. lane (ij^d) Robert Salesberry (ij^d) for havenge ther dogges goynge at lardge not moseled the Stand a mercyd

peine Item y^t no ynhabytant after vj days now next commynge have hys or ther ban dogges nor bytchys

- goynge at large in the Stretes vn moselyd vnder the peyne to forfeit for euery tyme doyng the contrary xij^d & y^t to be payd within xiiij dayes next after the falt beyng maed
- peine* Item y^t none have ther Dukkes goyng at lardge in the Stretes vnder the peyne of euery offendour to forfeit for euery Duk ij^d tociens quociens
- peine* Item y^t no brwar y^t brwth aell to Syll from hensfurthe shall have vse nor occupy to put in ther brethen no hoppes nor no other Suttell thynges in ther brwynge¹ vnder the peyne of euery offendour to forfeit for euery defalt xx^s & y^t to be payd w^tin xiiij days next after the falt So be provyd or found in them & euery of [blank]
- peynes* Item y^t the commen brwares from hensfurthe shall Syll new aell vnder the hearsyve for xvij^d y^e dossen & xij galones to the dossen clere & Staell for ij^d y^e galen & iij galens of Small ale for a penny good & wholsum for mans body & y^t none tune furthe eny brethen of aell vntyl the tastares have asayed & alowed the Same aell & drynke to be good & wholsum vnder the peyne of forfetyng for euery defalt xx^s
- belyf* The xij men² have ordenyd ther trysty & welbelouyd Robert Perot³ to be bely for one wholl yere now next Comynge
- alderman* Item ther trysty & welbelouyd Henry byddyll Capytall alderman Jur.
- Constabulles* Item ther trysty & welbelouyd Humfrey Plymley Roger sadler John taylor & John shakspeyr (Jur.)⁴ Constabulles
- tastares* Item william perot & John bell tastares Jur.
- chamburlenes* Item lews ap willm & Ric Hyll chamburlen Jur.

¹ Introduction, p. xi.³ The brewer.² Ibid, p. xxii.⁴ Introduction, p. xxxvi.

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lether seallares willm trowt & Ric brookes (extra) Jur.
sergeauntes {Ric sharp} (Johes aporse) & Willm butlar Jur.
merc. Roger Sadler (xx^d) Ric Aunge (xij^d) [John] Cartwryght (vj^d) Commen bacares & brekyng
 thassyez ey stand a mercyd
peine Item y^t John clarke carpenter do avoyd hys
 hous of his woman dwellynge w^t hym befor all
 halow day vnder the peyne vjs viij^d
 m^d y^t y^e xij men dyd amerce the offendors &
 no furares choson.

[*Misc. Doc. vii. 57.*]

14 April, 1559

[VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE.]

Visus ffranci plegii Cum Curia et Sessione pacis
 'Stratford' scil. tentus ibidem xiii^o die Aprilis Anno Regni
 Elizabethe Dei gratia Anglie ffrancie & Hibernie
 Regine fidei defensoris &c primo.²

<i>Essonie, scil.</i>	<i>[Nil.]</i>	
<i>positi in decennariis</i>	<i>Scil. [Blank]</i>	
<i>domine Regine</i>		
<i>xij^{cem} Jurati pro</i>	<i>Willms Smythe mercer</i>	
<i>Domina Regina</i>		
		<i>Georgius Whatley</i>
		<i>Robertus Bratt</i>
		<i>Iodowycus apwylyam</i>
	<i>Ricus Symondes</i>	<i>Jur.</i>
<i>Willms mynce</i>	<i>Edwardus yonge</i>	
<i>Ricus Hyll</i>	<i>Arthurus Boys</i>	
<i>Willms Perott</i>	<i>Gilbertus Bradley</i>	
<i>Johes Icheuor</i>	<i>Ricus Goodwyn</i>	
<i>Thomas Patryck</i>	<i>Johes Bell</i>	
	<i>Thomas Rychardson</i>	<i>Jur.</i>
	<i>Nichus lane</i>	

[*Misc. Doc. xii. 17.*]

¹ In the handwriting of the Steward, William Court. Note the spelling Symondes.

² This is the first Court Leet under Elizabeth.

[14 April, 1559¹]

- ² merc. Ric. Symons (xvj^d) Willm brace (xvj^d) Robert mylles (ij^s) Thomas Hunt (iiij^d) Richard lyghtfot (xij^d) Henry Sydnall (xij^d) John bell (xij^d) phylyp burbage (iiij^d) ³ peter smart (vj^d) torperley (vj^d) M^r alderman (xij^d) Ric. lane (xij^d) John nevell (iiij^d) John Peat (vj^d) elsabeth marten (vj^d) salesbury (xij^d) Humfrey ranoldes (xij^d) for havynge ther swyne goyng at lardge in the stretes they stand amerced tocions quociens
- merc. M^r Alderman ⁴ Richard Symons Thomas Hunt Ric. lane Willm rawson iiij^d a pece for havynge ther dukkes goyng at lardge in the Stretes they Stand amerced
- paynes That no ynhabytant in Stratford from hensfurthe have eny dukkes goyng at lardge in the Stretes vnder the peyne to forfeit for euery dukke iiij^d & as oft as they be taken in the falte
- merc. gryffyn ap Robert chrysrouer Smythe Richard lane henry fyld mistress waterman ⁵ & thomas buntynge for havynge & Sufferynge ther dogges goyng at lardge in the Stretes they Stand amerced (ij^d a pece)
- peynes & y^t no inhabytant w^tin Stratford Suffer ther dogges goyng at lardge vn moseled in the strettes nor ther bytchys bynge in Sawt ⁶ vnder the peyne of euery offendour to forfeit iij^s iiij^d tocions quotiens
- peynes y^t euery tenaunt from tyme to tyme do kep cleane the gutteres befor ther Soylles vnder the peyne of euery offendour forfetynge for euery defalt xij^d
- peynes & y^t euery tenaunt in Hy stret chappell stret Wood stret burge stret & Henley stret befor the feast of the natuyuty of Sent John baptyst now next comynge ⁷ do

¹ The date of this document is determined by the mention of Robert Perrot as Bailiff. See note 3, p. 90; also note 3 below.

² From this point the handwriting is that of Richard Symons.

³ Philippa Burbage, widow of John Burbage (of the Swan?), who was buried on 3 April, 1558. On 8 May, 1559, she married Thomas Dickson alias Waterman, son of the late Alderman Dickson.

⁴ Henry Biddle.

⁵ Widow of the late Alderman Dickson.

⁶ In heat.

⁷ 24 June, 1559.

pave the pavements in the stretes befor ther Soylles
w^tout further warnynge vnder the peyne of euery offend^dor to forfe^t & pay iij^s iiij^d

- merc.* ffrauncis Harbadge master bely y^t now is ¹ adreane quyny
m^r hall {Roger sadler} m^r clopton for the gutter along
the chappell & in chappell lane ² {Ric. Charnok} John
shakespeyr ³ for not kepynge ther gutteres cleane they
stand amerced (iiij^d a pece)
- merc.* chrysrouer Smythe (vj^d) for makynge a mukhyll by the
meyr ⁴ syed he standes a merced
- merc.* margaret homys wyddow (vj^d) for makynge & suffer-
ynge a dunghyll in grenehylstret she standes amerced
- peynes* that no ynhabytaunces w^tin Stratford suffur nor make
eny mukhyll in the Stretes but thoes y^t be assigned &
appwyntyd vnder the peyne for euery offend^dor to forfe^t
vj^s viij^d
- peyne* & frauncis harbadge do ryd the mukhyll befor chambures
hous ⁵ befor mydsomer vnder the peyne of xx^s
- peyne* & y^t the same frauncis do paell post & reyll the same
mukhyll befor mydsomer vnder the peyne of xx^s
- peyne* & y^t non dyg from hensfurthe eny gravell in the gravell
pyttes in chappell lane vnder the peyne vj^s viij^d
- peyne* & y^t the chamburlens do ryd the mukhyll in chappell
lane nye vnto the chappell at the good wyf walkeres ⁶ hous
end befor the assencyon day ⁷ vnder the peyne of vj^s viij^d
- merc.* Roger banester (xx^d) for kepynge evell rewll & Syllynge
aell & beyng a commen typlar & more bounden by
recognysance he ys amerced
- merc.* thomas alye (iiij^d) {Ric. restell} for beyng commen
vyttelers contrary to the Statute they stand amerced
- peyne* y^t none havyng Swyne goynge at lardge in the bancroft

¹ Robert Perrott.

² Master Clopton was William Clopton, junior, then living at New Place in
succession to Richard Charnock and his wife, Widow Bentley.

³ In Henley Street.

⁴ Mere Side.

⁵ In Henley Street.

⁶ Chapel Lane was known as Walkers Street from the fullers who for
centuries had used the stream there. Goodwife Walker no doubt took her
name from one of the occupation.

⁷ 4 May.

nor in the gylpyttes ne other place w^tout a keper the same vnder the peine xx^s

- merc.* {francis harbadge} m^r bely y^t now ys W^m perot John Icheuor Rob. Salesbery W^m brace mistres waterman roger grene Rob. mylles for occupynge in ther aell hoppes they Stand amerced (vj^d a pece)
- merc.* gryffyn the butchar¹ (iiij^d) for makynge afry vpon francis harbadge man he standes amerced
- merc.* gryffyn the bochar (ij^d) for makynge a sawt & gevynge obprobrious [words] to the constabulles² & he stands amerced
- merc.* Henry rogers (iiij^d) & Robert enysdall (iiij^d) for makynge a fray in the defalt of both y^{e*i*} stand amerced
- merc.* afry betwene the bely of preston (iiij^d) & Robert rogeres (iiij^d) in the defalt
- merc.* afry & blodshed made bytwene henry rogeres (vj^d) & willm Jeffereys (vj^d) the defalt of bothe.
- merc.* Raf Cawdrey (xij^d) for makynge afry vpon elyxander web of bereley³ he stands amerced
- merc.* baget the taylor (iiij^d) for makynge afry vpon fysshar the corveser he standes amerced
- merc.* morres (xij^d) m^r Combes man for makynge afry vpon m^r cloptones man he stands amerced
- peyne* {& y^t the brasieres comyng to stratford feyres to syl ther wares shal from hensfurthe Stand in no other place but only in the burge stret vnder the peyn of ther consorteres & abettore to the contrary to forfeit xx^s}
- peyne* & y^t the beddares & brasieres commyng to stratford feyres shall have & kep ther standynge ther whear as they have vsed in tymez past in burge stret & wood stret & not neer about the hy cros Sub pene cuius-libet derelinquendi forisfacere domino xl^s
- peine* & y^t no inhabytaunt w^tin stratford from hensfurthe Suffer in his & ther housses or groundes eny vnlaffull

¹ Griffin ap Roberts.

² John Shakespeare was one of the Constables. See p. 90 and Introduction, p. xxxvi.

³ Introduction, p. xlvi.

gamez contrary to the Statute vnder the peyne in the Statut resyted

the xij men have ordeyned willm trowt & thomas bell lether Seallares

peine & y^t the tannares comynge to Stratford to Syll ther lether from hensfurth shal syll ther lether in no other place but in the gyld hall vnder the peyne of vj^s viij^d euery offendour Savynge only the townes men.

merc. John bell (ij^s vj^d) & willm trout (xij^d) for vnleyffully Seallynge lether they stand amerced

merc. Willm brace (xx^d) W^m perot (xx^d) Rob^t perot the bely (ij^s) ¹ & al other the bruares for makynge on lauffull aell & drynke they Stand amerced (xij^d a pece)

merc. the bochares for kyllynge & Syllynge on leyfull fleshe as well veall w^tin age & as also mutton nott lauffull (vj^d a pece)

peine & y^t euery housholder w^tin stratford havyng seruautes & chyldren shall Se y^e seruautes & chyldren well vsed & as well at seruece tyme ² as also y^t they have ther chyldren & seruautes in ther housses in the evenyng in the Summer season after the our of eight by the clok & y^t non mayntayne the seruautes nor chylderen to mys vse them vnder the peyne of euery offendour to forfeit & los for euery defalt vj^s viij^d

peine & y^t John henshew do pytche his hedge indyfferently ³ betwene John Wheler & his ground in wynsor & y^t yt be done w^tin xx days next after this court vnder the peyne of xx^s & also y^t he do suffer the Said whelar to enjoy the elme ther standyng at the corner end in the mound ther in lyke peyne

¹ Robert Perrott was bailiff from Michaelmas 1558 to Michaelmas 1559, and this document, which is undated, belongs no doubt to the Court Leet of April 1559.

² Service time, i.e. work hours.

³ Impartially. Cf. Shakespeare, *Julius Caesar*, I. ii. 87:

Set honour in one eye and death i' the other,

And I will look on both indifferently.

Henshaw, who occupied a tenement in Greenhill Street, next door on the west to Richard Pigeon's house (now no. 16) with an orchard on the north bordering on John Wheeler's ground in Windsor, had received a similar order in April 1553. See further p. 98.

peine & y^t the xij men {only exceptyd willm perrot & John Icheuor} have ordeyned y^t all brwares y^t hensfurthe brw aell to syll shall syll new aell vnder the hear syve for xxij^d the dossen xij galens to the dossen clere & staell for ij^s iiij^d y^e dossen ij galens of small drynke for a j^d & y^t yt be good & wholsum & y^t the bruar do not twne furthe vntyl the tasteres have alowed the Same aell & drynke to be wholsum vnder the peyne of euery offendour doyng the contrary to forfeit & pay for euery defalt xl^s euery fre holder y^t do not appeyr iiij^d a pece euery fyshemonger iiij^d a pece the mylneres iiij^d a pece bacares iiij^d a pece chaundlares iiij^d a pece {buchares iiij^d a pece} ynholdares iiij^d a pece brwares iiij^d a pece

afferores¹ Cur. scil.

Willm Smyth George Whatley Nichus lane Robertus Bratt lewes ap Wylyam Ric. Hyll	}	Jur.
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[*Misc. Doc. vii. 38.*]

6 October, 1559

[VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE.]

² Stratford' } Scil. Visus ffranci plegii Cum Curia et Sessione
 Burgus } Scil. pacis tentus ibidem Sexto die octobris Anno
 regni Elizabethe dei gratia anglie francie &
 hibernie &c primo.

¹ The unusual number of six is appointed.

² In the handwriting of Richard Symons.

Essonie scil. [Nil.]

<i>Positi in de-</i>	Willms Smythe ¹	Jur.	Robtus brat	Jur.
<i>cennariis do-</i>	Georgius Whatley		Iodowic ap willm	
<i>mine Regine</i>	Willms Whatley		Willms mynske	
<i>scil.</i>	Ffranciscus Harbadge	Jur.	Willms Smyth corveser ¹	Jur.
	Willms Smyth haberdasher ¹		Willms trowt	
	Ricus Symons		Ricus Cotton	
	Willm tylor	Jur.	Thomas rychardson	Jur.
	edmundus barret		Thomas dyxson	

Roger grene Jur.

homag' dicunt Super Sacramentum Suorum quod Johannes
present' portar seruiens cum Willelmo Smythe (vj^d) corveser
m' infecit Sultum Super thomam Mytton contra pacem
 domine regine ideo ipse in misericordia domine
m' frauncis harbadge (xij^d) Willm trowt (xij^d) george
 Whatley (xij^d) Robert brat (xij^d) Ric. lane (xij^d) thomas
 Richardson (xij^d) thomas dege (xij^d) chrysrouer Smyth
 (xij^d) John Jamson (xij^d) thomas godwyn (xij^d) thomas
 hunt (xij^d) for beynge vyttelares & typlares & kepyng
 vnlauffull gamuyng in ther housses they Stand amerced
m' gylbart bradley (xij^d) for not Scowrynge hys gutter in
 Swyn stret & havynge hys tymbur trees lyen befor hys
 door in Henley stret he Standes amerced
m' euery tenaunt in stratford havynge the pavementes
 broken befor ther Soylles stand amerced euery of them
m' Richard lane (xij^d) for Sufferynge & mayntaynenge hys
 neigheboures makyng a mukhyll & leyenge muke in
 the Stret befor hys barne in Swyn stret he Standes
 amerced
m' Henry Sydnall (vj^d) for not ryddynge hys tymbur lyenge
 in the churche stret befor hys doore he standes amerced
m' Henry Sydnall (viij^d) Robert Salesberry (viij^d) Robert
 mylles (viij^d) Willm brace (viij^d) John bell (viij^d) Ric.
 Symons (vj^d) Willm rawson (viij^d) thomas hunt (viij^d)
 frauncis torperley (viij^d) willm clarke (viij^d) for havynge

¹ For the three William Smiths here see Introduction, p. xlvi.

- ther Swyne goynge at lardge in the Stretes they Stand a merced
- m'* m^r byddyll (iiij^d) Ric. Symons (iiij^d) Willm rawson (iiij^d) Ric. lane (iiij^d) for havynge ther dukkes goyng at lardge in the Stretes they Stand a merced
- m'* John Henshawe (iij^s iiij^d) for not pytchynge & Settynge hys hedges indyfferently betwene hym & John Whelar ¹ & betwene hym & John pyggyn he standes a merced iij^s iiij^d
- m'* Robert perot (vj^s viij^d) Willm perot (v^s) Roger grene (xvj^d) John Icheuar (iij^s iiij^d) Robert Salesberry (ij^s) Robert mylles (xvj^d) for makynge & Syllynge furthe of ther housses vnlauffull & vn wholsum ale dyueres & Syndre tymez they & euery of them Stand a merced
- m'* Alice nevell (xij^d) John Icheuar (xij^d) Roger grene (iiij^d) & Robert Salesberry (xij^d) beynge Comen brwares & not wyllynge nor Sendynge for the tastares to assay of ther ale befor they twnnyd yt furthe they Stand a merced
- m'* Roger Sadler (iii^s iiij^d) John Cartwryght (xij^d) Ric. aunge (xij^d) & John aunge (vj^d) beynge Comen bacares & brekyng thassyez they stand amerced
- m'* Raf Cawdrey (xij^d) John lord (xij^d) gryffyn ap Robert (xij^d) Willm tyler (xij^d) Henry rogeres (xij^d) John Hunt (iiij^d) John pyrry (vj^d) for beynge Commen bochares & kyllynge & Syllynge fleshe vn wholsum they stand amerced
- m'* Roger grene (iiij^d) & Willm rawson (iiij^d) qui sunt Communes molendinarii ibidem et ceperunt excessive tolnetum pro lucre ideo ipsi in misericordia
- m'* Ric. Sponar (xij^d) & Ric. brookes (xij^d) for refusynge to watche for ther housses they Stand a merced
- peine* peine y^t no person dwellyng wⁱn the burrow of Stratford from hensfurth vse nor occupy eny kynd of gamuynge in his or ther housses nor furthe of ther housses but only Shotynge & archary vnder the peyne of euery offendour to forfeit for euery defalt y^e fyrst defalt xij^d the next

¹ See pp. 28, 43, 44, 55, 95 note 3, 101, and Introduction, p. lv.

defalt ij^s the iiijrd defalt ij^s iiiij^d & so for euery defalt dublynge

peine y^t euery tenaunt w^tin the burrow of Stratford do Suffycyently mend & repar the pament in the stretes befor ther Soylles a thyssyd & befor the feest of thassencyon of o^r lord next commynge¹ vnder the peyne of euery offendour to forfeit vj^s viij^d

peine y^t no person make or Suffer to be made eny muke hyll or muke to be leyd in the stretes but only thos mukhylls whuche are appwyntyd by the xij men & y^t non ley eny muke at eny Suche vn appwyntyd mukhylls Sub pene cuiuslibet forisfacere domino x^s & y^t no tennant in burgestret ley eny muke at the barre yeattes² but y^t the Carry yt to francis harbage bake yeattes³ now a place appwyntyd for the Same in lyke peyne

peine y^t no ynhabytant in Stratford from hensfurthe haue ther Swyne nor Dukkes goynge at lardge in the strettes vnder the peine of euery offendour to forfeit vj^s viij^d

peine y^t no inhabytant in chapell stret nor in churche stret dwellynge neere vnto the chappell from hensfurthe vse to ley eny muke in eny other place in the chappell lanes but only in the gravell pyt in y^e chappell lane Sub pene Cuiuslibet derelinquendi forisfacere domino iii^s iiiij^d

peine y^t euery Comen brwar shall from hensfurthe befor they do twne furthe & claus⁴ ther ale, euery brwyng, shall send for the tastares or on of them to assay ther ale vnder y^e peyn of forfetynge for euery defalt xx^s & yf yt be found not to be good & wholsum then the tastares shal gyve ther of knowledge to the bely & alderman & they at ther dyscressyones to dystrybut all the same ale vnto the poor people⁵

peine y^t Roger Sadler beynge a Comen bacar & kepythe an ostre⁶ w^t out a Sygne at hys door fromhensfurthe shall

¹ 23 May, 1560.

² The Bar Gates at the town end of the Bridge where the tolls were taken.

³ back gates. ⁴ close.

⁵ Who perhaps would not think it so unwholesome as their betters!

⁶ hostel or ale-house.

other gyve vp hys Comen bakynge & kep an ostre w^t
a sygne at hys doore or elles gyve vp hys ostre &
stand & be a Comen bacar Sub pene xl^s

peine that no brwar w^tin Stratford beynge a Commen brwar
havynge a horsmyll or a quyne¹ myll in hys hous shall
not from hensfurthe grynd nor suffer to be ground
vpon hys myll nother for love luker or geyne eny
other brwares malt but only hys owne malt vnder the
peine of euery offendour to forfeit for euery defalt xx^s

peine y^t no person ne personnes fromhensfurthe revyell eny
offecer or offeceres nor gyvynge them or eny of them
obprobrious woords vnder the peyne of euery offendour
to forfeit for euery defalt xx^s & ther bo[d]yez to prison
ther to remayn vntyll y^e xx^s be payd or elles to put in
Suffycyent shurtyez for the payment therof

peine y^t no tennant receive eny In makes w^tout a specyall
lysance of the bely vnder the peine of forfeiture of xx^s

peine y^t the Constabullies² from tyme to tyme do dylygently
for se & ouer se y^t no Sengleman from hensfurthe wear
eny dagger nor other weapon w^tin the burro but y^t the
constabull Season³ of the Same weapon or dagger as a
forfeit & for the same be answerable to the belyf & for
lak of his office so executyng the Cunstabull in whom
Such neglygence shalbe found to forfeit for euery Suche
defalt vjs viij^d provyded always y^t yt shal & may be laufull
for eny Sengleman rydynge or goyng furthe of the toune
about hys laufull busynes to have hys weypon about hym
that the Comen bacares bakynge bred to syll shall Syll
from hensfurthe iiij loves for a penny ij loves for
a penny a lof for a penny kepynge thassyez & bultyd
w^t a laufull bulter

peine & y^t the Comen bruares y^t shall brw ale to Syll from
hensfurthe vntyll the next Court shall syll new ale
vnder the hersye ij^d the galen & not above & ij galens

¹ quern.

² John Shakespeare as a Constable would have to perform this duty. Introduction, p. xxxvi.

³ seize.

of Small drynk for a penny good & wholsum vnder the
peyne of euery offendour to forfeit for euery defalt xl^s
& y^t the typlares Syll ther ale by the pot beyng clere
& staell not ouer & above ij^d ob y^e galon Sub pene
Cuiuslibet derelinquendi forisfacere domino xx^d tociens
quociens

peyne y^t euery tennant kep kleane ther gutteres in y^e stretes
befor ther Soylles from tyme to tyme sub pene cuiuslibet
derelinquendi forisfacere domino iijs iiij^d

offeceres elect¹

The xij men have ordeyned ther welbelovyd adrean
quyny belyf Jur.

William Whatley alderman Jur.

John taylor John shakspeyr William tylor W^m Smythe
habardasher constabulles Jur.

Humfrey plymley & John Wheler chamburlens

Thomas Dyxson & Roger grene tasteres Jur.

Ric. sharpe & William butlar sergeauntes Jur.

William trowt & Henry fetherston lether sealers.

Rychard bedell²

John Wyller

Affurares	Ric. bydyll	}	Jur.
	lews ap Williams		Jur.
	(John Whelar)		Jur.
	{William tylor}		
	John shakspeyr	Jur.	

[*Misc. Doc. vii. 39.*]

14 October, 1559

[LETTER OF SIR ROBERT THROGMORTON AND SIR EDWARD
GREVILLE TO THE CORPORATION REMONSTRATING WITH THEM ON
THEIR TREATMENT OF THE VICAR.]

After our harte maner we commende vs vnto yow & wheare
we vnderstande y^t ther is stay made of y^e vycars³ wages wyche

¹ The first officers elected in Elizabeth's reign.

² Rychard Bedell and John Wyller are signatures. Marks are appended to
lews ap Williams, William Tylor, and John Shakspeyr. These last names and
Ric. bydyll and John Whelar are in Symons's handwriting.

³ Sir Roger Dyos was Vicar, having been appointed by Queen Mary
3 November, 1553. For his 'entry' see 7 February, 1555, p. 37.

was dew at mycallmas laste vpon what consyderacyon we know not and whether he mynde to kepe hys benyfies or to leyve y^t for eny Respect, yt ys no reson y^t yow schuld kepe y^t from hym wyche he hath servyd for nor y^e lawe wyll not permyt yow so to do: wherfore we schall bothe desyre yow to se hym payde hys diewtie, for other ways we schall not thynke so well of yow as we haue donne. So fare yow well from coughton y^e xxijth of octobre, 1559. yowr fryndys

Robert Throgmorton¹

Edward Grevell.²

[Added below in another hand—]

‘M^r Vycar sayeth they owed hym for half a yere at hys entre and one yere they owed hym at hys departure, vpon agreement cald for bondes to sauе hym harmelesse of the xv & x^{thes} & all other diewties’.

[*Wheler MS. i. 30.*]

5 October, 1560

[VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE.]

Stretford ³ Burgus	Scil.	Visus ffranci plegii cum Curia et Sessione pacis ibidem tentus v ^{to} die Octobris Anno Regni Elizabethe dei gratia Anglie ffrancie & Hibernie Regine fidei Defensoris &c. secundo.
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Essonie Scil. [*Nil.*]

positi in decennariis	Scil.	[Blank.]
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Domine Regine

xij Jurati pro domina Regina—Scil.

• Georgius Whatley	Jur.	{• Johannes Wheler}	Jur.
• Robertus Brat		{• Gylbertus Bradeley}	
• ffranciscus Herbage		• Willelmus Mynce	
• lodwicus Ap Wyllyam		{• Johannes Shakespere}	
• Humfridus Plymley		• Willelmus parrett	

{• Johannes Icheuer}

¹ Sir Robert Throgmorton of Coughton, son of Sir George Throgmorton.

² Sir Edward Greville of Milcote, near Stratford-upon-Avon, son of the late Sir John Greville.

³ From this point in the handwriting of the Steward (?).

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• Rogerus Grene		• Edwardus yonge	
• Willelmus Trowte	Jur.	• Thomas Meryck	Jur.
• Radulphus Chester		• Xpoferus Smyth	
• Edmundus Parrett		• Ricardus Symons	

m' ffrauncis Harbadge thomas dycson chrysrouer Smythe
 John gyll John Jamson John Hunt William trowt
 george banester John grandam artor nevell artor boys
 Henry Sydnall for havyng & Sufferynge vnlauffull
 gaumynge in ther housses they stand amerced euerie of
 them in [blank] apece

m' George Whatley John Jeffereys William Smythe Cor-
 veser John taylor William trowt William clarke frauncis
 torpley Richard lane Artor boys John Jamson John
 Icheuer thomas pattryke Richard Hyll & all the
 tenautes in Henley stret from y^e cros gutter befor
 bradleys doore to thupper end of Henley Strett & all
 the tenautes in burge stret as many as the pavementes
 are broken befor ther doores & for not mendynge of
 them they stand amerced in [blank] a pece

m' Henry byddyll Richard Symons Richard lane thomas
 deege John taylor humfrey ranoldes William rawson
 for havyng & Sufferynge ther duckes goynge at lardge
 in the stretes they stand amerced

m' thomas hunt Richard Symons Richard lane Richard
 lyghtfot Robert Salesberry Robert mylles for havyng
 & Sufferynge ther swyne goynge at lardge in the stretes
 they stand amerced

m' Robert Salesberry for gryndynge hys neygheboures malt
 & beyng a brwar he standes amerced

m' Robert rogeres for settynge hys cartes in the stretes
 before hys door he standes amerced

m' Richard charnocke for not makyng & Settyng vp
 a yeatt² on the bacsyd of the Curryares hous he standes
 a merced

m' William Whatley William Smythe mercer Robert
 Salesberry John bell chrysrouer Smythe Henry fyld

¹ From this point in the handwriting of Richard Symons.

² A gate.

Richard lane thomas dycson thomas rogeres Richard hyll thomas buntynge John taylor nycholas lane Richard byddyll John Whelar for havyng & sufferynge ther dogges & bytchys goynge at lardge in the Stretes they & euery of them Stand amerced

m' Richard Sponar encrochynge & Settynge a pece of byldynge befor hys Soyle in chappell stret he standes a merced

m' m^r trussell for makynge a fray & drawyng blud on roger brunt he standes a merced.¹

m' thomas fetherston for makynge a fray on thomas walford he standes a merced

m' thomas holyday alias drudge for makynge a fray & drw blud on luke hurst he standes a merced

nota m' Humfrey Homys for makynge a fray & drw blud on *bene* [blank]

nota m' [blank] merryke made a fray vpon John Henshaw *bene* therefore he standes amerced

nota m' Raff Cawdrey for makynge a fray vpon [blank] grene of *bene* wotton he standes amerced

nota m' m^r Harbadge man thomas [blank] for makynge a fray *bene* vpon thother of m^r Harbadge man y^e Irysheman he standes amerced

m' Richard a Court for gevenge the Constabulles obprobrious woordes & revlyng the Constabulles he standes a merced

m' Roger sadler Richard Aunge John Aunge John Cart Wright beyng commen bacares & for brekyng thassyez they stand amerced euery of them

m' Robert perot William perot John ycheare Robert salesberry Robert mylles William brace alice nevell brwares et vendiderunt ceruisiam insalubrem ideo ipsi in misericordia domine

m' Robert perot Robert salesberry Robert mylles William brace John ychyuer alice nevell for not sendyng for

¹ For these assaults, see Introduction, p. xxxvi. John Shakespeare was one of the four Constables.

the tasteres befor they tonnyd furthe ther aell they stand amerced

m' artor newall artor boys Richard lane for Syllinge beere by the pottes not Seallyd they stand amerced

m' Raf Cawdrey John boyd John Hunt gryffyn ap robert John pyrry [blank] gorst for Syllinge flesh not wholsum y^ej stand amerced

m' edward yngram lews apwilliam Robert hynd for syllynge fysh Sumtyme not holsum they stand a merced

m' frauncis harbadge for hys mukhyll at chamburs doore he standes a merced

m' William Rawson for takynge extra towll he standes amerced

m' euery of the typlares for Syllinge aell by the pot not seallyd they stand a merced

nota m' Richard byddyll Roger brage [blank] chandlares for syllynge candylles Sum tyme lakynge wyght they stand amerced

Fines *m'* } William clopton (iiij^d) armiger thomasarden¹ heredes
 Comen } de welshe thomas grevell John Comes² thomas
vij^s viij^d } vndrell³ John clopton lady Anne Smyth heredes of
 goodryche thomas badger⁴ edward walford⁵ John
 brogden tanner of clyfford thomas hunt laurence masse
 heredes of dyson [blank] prykkyvant heredes of torpley
 heredes of Henry Suche John Kynge heredes of black-
 ford heredes of lyghtfot John cumpton Whelar of
 salford late gyld of warrwych

m' mr Hall (iiij^d) John broune (iiij^d) John lord (iiij^d) John
resyance⁶ meydes y^e cutler (ij^d) John cooke (ij^d) Richard sharp (ij^d)
 Anthony tannar (ij^d) humfrey homys (iiij^d) John tongue

¹ Thomas Arden of Park Hall, first cousin (apparently) of the late Robert Arden of Wilmecote. He died in 5 Elizabeth. His brother, John, was probably the fugitive priest who gave trouble to the Protestant Bishop of Worcester (Edwin Sandys).

² Old John Combe senior, of Old Stratford, father of John and William.

³ Probably Thomas Underhill, of Nether Eatington.

⁴ Of the Grange, Bidford.

⁵ Of Evenlode, who married in Jan. 1557 Margaret (neé Dickson alias Waterman), widow of Alderman Thomas Philippy. ⁶ residents.

- Richard mychell (ij^d) John herryng (ij^d) Richard
barnebrook (ij^d) for not apperyng they stand amerced
present- y^t whear Henry Russell seruant¹ dyd felonysly steell
mentes from hys said m^r certen goodes & parcelles of the
same goodes the same y^t ys to say a Cot Henry
russell receved ageyn & also y^e same fellow dyd steell
from John pyrry a geldyng & from [blank]
- present-* & y^t W^m smythe haberdashar had a pece of apurnynge²
mentes color russet stolen from hym by a straunger & taken
from the same straunger by on bradley of evessam
- m'* all the typlares for Syllynge aell by the pot not her syfed³
nor seallyd they stand a merced [blank] a pece
- present-* The xij men do presen[t] that the Welsheman vsyng to
mentes archarey in shypstret⁴ lyveth Idly & Suspecuously.
- present-* That Anna Spurton ys a Comen Scold & an onquyet
mentes woman
- peine* Inprimis y^t no person w^tin the burrow vse nor occupy
eny kynd of gamynge in the housses &c vnder the
peine of xx^s
- peine* y^t euery tenaunt in hye stret shypstret burgestret
henley stret & wood stret do reparre y^e pavemente
befor ther Soylles befor the next Court vnder the
peine of vj^s viij^d
- peine* y^t none have nor suffer eny mukhyll vpon ther
groundes in the stretes but only thos y^t are appwyntyd
Sub pene xx^s
- peine* & y^t no person ley eny mucke or dynge in eny other
place in the stretes but on y^e comen mukhyll appwyntyd
sub pene x^s tocions quociens
- peine* & y^t no person have ther duckes or swyne goynge at
lardge in the stretes nor ther Swyne in the stretes nor
ther Swyne in bancroft nor in the lanes ther vn
ryngyd nor vn yowkyd vnder peine for euery duk
iiij^d & euery Swyne xx^d.

¹ Henry Russell's servant.² aproning.³ hair sieved.⁴ Welshmen were still fairly numerous in Stratford, both as townsmen
and strangers.

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- peine* & y^t euery Commen brwar do send for y^e tastares to assay ther aell before they tune yt furthe vnder the peine of xx^s
- peine* & y^t no brware havyng a horsmyll or a quyrne myl of hys owne shall grynd no other mens malt but hys owne vnder peyne xl^s
- peyne* & y^t no person revyell eny offecer but he shall forfeit for euery defalt xx^s
- peine* & y^t the peynes hear tofor made of ynmakes stand & shalbe in ful strenkethe
- peine* y^t non receve eny Straunge woman beynge w^t chyld to thentent y^t she shalbe brought to bed in his hous Sub pene xx^s
- peine* & y^t euery tenaunt kepe Cleane ther gutteres from tyme to tyme Sub pene vj^s viij^d
- peine* & y^t non have ther shyp goyng in the bancroft non ouer & above ij ewzes in peyne of vj^s viij^d for euery defalt
- peine* & y^t Richard charnoke do let make & set vp a Suffycyent yat ¹ on y^e bac syed of y^e Curryares hous w^t [in] xiij days next after y^s court sub pene xx^s
- peine* & y^t no person suffer y^r ban dogges go vn moseled in y^e stretes nor no bytche in Sawt Sub pene x^s
- peine* & y^t euery bacar y^t shall bake bred to Syll shall syll ij loves for a penny on loffe for a penny bultyd w^t a lauffull bulter & that they kep the syez vnder peine of euery tyme offendynge to forfeit xx^s
- peine* & y^t euery brwar y^t shall brwe aell to sell shall syll new aell vnder the hearsyve for ij^s y^e dossen xiij galons to the dossen good & wholsom & ij galones of Smal aell for a penny vntyll Suche tyme y^t m^r bely & other hys brethern do see Caussez other wyez to Syez the same by the fallynge of the prises of corne
- peine* y^t euery tenaunt [in] ded lone ² do Scour & kep Cleane ther dyches & the lone befor ther Soylles from tyme to tyme Sub pene Cuiuslibet derelinquendi forisfacere domino vj^s viij^d

¹ gate.

² Dead Lane, or Chapel Lane.

officiorum electio

The xij men have elect ther welbelovyd Roger sadler
to be bely for this on yere now next comynge. Jur.
Raf Cawdrey Alderman Jur.

constabulles	Willm smythe haberdasshaw Willm tylor W ^m perot John bell	Jur.
chamburlenes	Humfrey plymley John Whelar	Jur.
Tasteres	John Icheuer W ^m brace	Jur.
lether sealares	Thomas bell John Jamson	
sergeautes	Richard sharp Will ^m butlar	Jur.
ffurares	george Whatley Henry byddyll lews ap willm Willm mynske	Jur.

[*Misc. Doc. vii. 32.*]

10 January, 156^o.

[THE CORPORATION RENT ROLL.]

STRATFORD.

^a The Krentrowill of all the landes Clossys¹ tenementes
howssez mesuages and burgages² belungynge to the Corpora-
cyon of Stratford & were off & belungyd to the late gyld of
Stratford dyssolvyd made the tenthe day of January in the yere
of our lord god a thousand fyve hundred & thre score & in the
tyme of Adrean quyny then beyng bely of the burrowe of
Stratford aforsaid William Whatley head alderman, & of
Humfrey plymley & John Whelar Chamburlens.

^a In the handwriting of Richard Symons the Town Clerk.

¹ closes.

² Houses and lands which were formerly the site of houses.

Churche Strett

Adrean quyny for ij Cotages now in the tenure of thomas goodbarne & Raf deves by yere	ij ^d
Richard Hyll for a tenement in y ^e holdyng of John Edwards rented by yere	vij ^s
William Smyth for a tenement & a barne now in the holdyng of John Sadler by yere	xv ^s
of y ^e same William smyth a chef rent goyng out of the same tenement as yt apperyth in hys lees by yer	xij ^d
^a (Jo. Bretchgirdle) ¹ for a tenement by yere	vij ^s
Robert Salesberry for a tenement by yere late anne nycolles	vij ^s
Robert Salysberry for a tenement rented by yere	xij ^s
Robert Salesberry for on other tenement by yere	xij ^s
John Combes for iij tenementes lyeng to gether by yer	vij ^s
Richard Wagstaf for a tenement in y ^e tenure of Peter Start rentyd by yere	xij ^s viij ^d
Heredes thomas Samwell for one annuall rent goyng out of a clos in evessam ² lane	viij ^s viij ^d
Summa iij ^{li} xx ^d j ^d	
(Sm ^a iij ^{li} iij ^s j ^d) ³	

Chapell strete & dede lane.⁴

John bell for a tenement by yere	xij ^s viij ^d
William brace for a tenement by yere	iij ^s
Richard Symons ⁵ for a tenement & a horsmyll & a gardyn in dede lane rentyd by yere	xxvj ^s viij ^d

^a Names in brackets are written over others erased, and are therefore subsequent to 10 January, 1561.

¹ The Vicar, who was presented on 28 January, 1561. The house was occupied by John Gray alias Hely, a chandler and tippler.

² Evesham.

³ In a later hand.

⁴ Chapel Lane.

⁵ The writer of this Roll.

Richard Sponar for a tenement by yere	xijjs ^s iiijd ^d
Robert mylles for a tenement by yere	xij ^s
Richard lane for y ^e chappell gardyn ⁱ in Ded lane by yere	xxvj ^s viij ^d
^a (Richard Symond) for a gardyn by yere	xx ^d
George Whatley for a barne by yere	viijs ^s
William Smythe corveser for a barne by yere	vij ^s
Richard Hall for a barne by yere	vij ^s
Summa v ^{li} xvij ^s viij ^d	

Shypstret² & bancroft syed

(John Sadlar) ³ for a tenement late burford by yere	xvj ^s
Richard Castell for a tenement by yere	xij ^s
John tongue for [a] tenement by yere	viijs ^s
William Smythe corveser for a tenement by yer	viijs ^s
William Smythe corveser for a tenement by yere	viijs ^s
Theheres of Thomas Samwell for a annuall rent goyng out of a tenement in y ^e holdyng of William Waynwryght by yer	vj ^d
William Smythe mercer for a Annuall rent goyng out of a tenement in the tenure of William tylar	vj ^d
John taylor for a tenement in shypstret & a barne in bancroft syde rentyd by yer	xvij ^s
John geffereys for a tenement in shyp strel by yer	x ^s

^a See note on p. 109.

ⁱ The old Gild Garden, subsequently acquired by John Shakespeare as Chamberlain for the use of the Council.

² Sheep Street and Bankcroft side. For the confusion of *ship* and *sheep* see Shakespeare's repeated witticism, in *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, I. i. 72-3:

Speed. Twenty to one, then, he is shipp'd already,

And I have played the sheep in losing him;

in *Love's Labour's Lost*, II. i. 218-20:

Boyet. I was as willing to grapple as he was to board.

Maria. Two hot sheeps, marry.

Boyet. And wherefore not ships?

and in *The Comedy of Errors*, IV. i. 93-4:

Ant. E. Why, thou peevish sheep,

What ship of Epidamnum stays for me?

³ John Sadler was a son of Roger Sadler, the Alderman. He was a miller and yeoman. The late tenant was Thomas Burford: see p. 6 (last line).

Richard godwyn for a barne in bancroft syd by yer vj^s viij^d
[blank]¹ Dycson wyddow for a ba[r]ne bancroft syde v^s
Summa iiij^{lii} xj^s viij^d

By Strett

Adrean quyny for a tenement in y ^e holdyng of Roger Sadler	xxvj ^s viij ^d
^a (Johannis tylar) for a tenement in quo modo inhabitat per Annum	xxvj ^s viij ^d
William trowt for ij tenementes & a chambur over y ^e Jayll	xxxiiij ^s iiiij ^d
Agnes West for a tenement callyd y ^e Cage ² by yer the heires of torperley for an annuall rent goyng out of a tenement of y ^e heires of John Dycson now in the holdyng of chrysrouer Smyth	xxiiij ^s iiiij ^d
Thomas Dege for a tenement ³ rentyd by yer	vj ^d
Henry byddyll for a tenement rentyd by yer	xvij ^s
Adrean quyny for a tenement in quo Richardus boys inhabitat	xx ^s
Summa viij ^{lii} ij ^s vj ^d	xiiij ^s

Swyne stret⁴ Roder stret⁵ grene hyll strete

Richard Hall for a barne & a clos by yer	x ^s
Richard Symons for an annuall rent goyng out of a barne in y ^e holdyng of y ^e same Richard	xij ^d
Richard Symons for a barne w ^t a garden by yer	iiiij ^s
Adrean quyny for a barne & a garden in the tenure of thomas hunt ⁶ rented by yer	iiiij ^s

^a See note, p. 109.¹ Thomas, the late Alderman. See p. 92, note 5.² The house at the corner of High Street and Bridge Street, afterwards occupied by William Shakespeare's younger daughter, Judith Quyny.³ The present Garrick Inn.⁴ Otherwise Ely Street.⁵ Rother Street or Rother Market. *Rother* is a red ox, as in *Timon of Athens*, iv. iii. 12-13 (amended): 'It is the pasture lards the rother's sides, the want that makes him lean.'⁶ John Heynes written in later.

Johanna Salt ¹ pro tenemento in quo modo inhabitat by yer	iiij ^s
Humfrey ranoldes for a tenement by yer	xvj ^s
^a (Raff Downe) for ij tenementes by yer	xvj ^s
George pynar ² for a tenement by yer	xij ^s
Henry bydyll for a barne rentyd by yer	vij ^s
Henry Wryght for a tenement rentyd by yer	v ^s
ffrauncis Harbadge ffor a tenement now in the hold- yng of Ric. Harbadge rented by yer	vj ^s
^a (thomas barbur) ffor a tenement by yer	v ^s
^a (thomas barbur) ffor a tenement by yer	v ^s
laurence masse for an annuall rent goyng out of a tenement whearin margery lynsyncum dwellyth by yer	vij ^d
The heires of thomas phillyppes for an annuall rent goyng out of a tenement whear in William Hyll now dwellyth by yer	j ^d ob
Richard pyggyn ³ ffor a tenement rented by yer in grene hyll strett	v ^s
Summa v ^{li} ix ^d ob	

Wood strett

John Page ⁴ for a tenement by yer	xxvj ^s viij ^d
^a (John edwardes) for a tenement by yer	v ^s
Alicie nevell for a tenement whearin a [blank] Wyl- kenson now dwellyth rentyd by yer	vij ^s
^a (Henry rodes) bowyar for a tenement by yer	xij ^s
Wm ----- ^b for a tenement by yer	vij ^s
Richard Hyll ⁵ for a tenement by yer	xxvj ^s viij ^d
Summa iiij ^{li} v ^s iiij ^d	

^a See note on p. 109.^b Name erased.¹ William Bathe written in later. Johanna Salt married William Bathe or Batheway on 23 April, 1561. (In the Register she appears with her maiden name, Mallin.)² Or Pinder.³ Richard Pigeon buried his wife Joan on 29 July, 1561, and was buried himself 29 April, 1567.⁴ He occupied the corner house (still standing) of Wood Street and Rother Market.⁵ Introduction, p. lv.

Henley stret & Wyndyssor

^a (Rychard Halle) for a clos lat in the holdyng of Ric. Lord	vjs
^a (Robert gybbes) for an orchard in Wyndyssor by yer	iiij ^s
Roger grene myllar for a gardyn in hey lane ² by yer	ij ^s
Gylbart bradley ² for a barne in hey lane by yer	v ^s
John Whelar ³ for ij tenementes in Henley Stret by yer	x ^s
^a (nycolas robynson) for a tenement lat in y ^e holdyng of Roger lyncycum	vjs viij ^d
([blank] ⁴ dyson) for a tenement late in the holdyng of george grene	vjs viij ^d
Adrean quyny for a tenement & a barne	xiiij ^s
Gylbart bradley for a tenement by yer	xvj ^s
Roger grene mylner for a tenement by yer	xij ^s
^a (george aunge) for a tenement by yer	xij ^s
The heires of thomas phyllypes ⁵ for an annuall rent goyng out of a tenement late in y ^e holdyng of Roger sadler	vj ^d
William smythe habardasshar, for a tenement in quo inhabitac ⁶	xij ^s
Summa vli vjs x ^d	

Burgstret cum medyll Kewe

Raf Cawdrey for a tenement callyd y ^e Aungell ⁷ by yer	xxxiiij ^s iiij ^d
Alicia nevell for a tenement in burgestret & a gardyn in Swyne stret by yer	xx ^s

^a See note on p. 109.¹ Hell Lane, Henley Lane, now Windsor Street. ² Introduction, p. lx.³ Introduction, p. lv. ⁴ Richard Dyson in Rent Roll of 10 March, 1574.⁵ Alderman Thomas Philipps, who left a widow (Margaret Dickson *alias* Waterman) and two daughters, Mary and Elizabeth. The last-named became the wife of William Shakespeare's friend, Richard Quyny.⁶ William Smith, haberdasher, was John Shakespeare's neighbour in Henley Street, and probably the godfather later of William Shakespeare. Introduction, p. lii.⁷ The Angel was an Inn at the junction of Back Bridge Street with Henley Street.

Elsabete marten for a tenement by yer	xij ^s
Richard Aunge for a tenement by yer	x ^s
Heires of Richard bromley, W ^m Whatley for an annuall rent goyng out of a tenement in y ^e hold- yng of Ric. coton	xij ^d
the heires of thomas dycson for a annuall rent goyng out of y ^e hous whearin thomas dycson lat dwellyd ¹	ij ^d
Edmund barret for a tenement Callyd y ^e Crowne ² by yer	xxxiiij ^s iiiij ^d
^a (george pynder) for ij tenementes in medyl rew now in y ^e tenur of george pynder & Johannis Jamson	xx ^s
William Smythe habardasshar for ij shoppes in mydell rew now made in oon shop in hys occu- pyeng ³	xx ^s
^a (W ^m smyth) for a shop rentyd by yer	xiij ^s iiiij ^d
Raf Cawdrey for a shop rentyd by yer	xiij ^s iiiij ^d
Raf Cawdrey for a chere in y ^e lyttyl lane in y ^e shombulles ⁴	ij ^d
^a (John Hunte) ffor ij shoppes behynd ye shombulles [blank] {for a tenement late Roger Cooley by yer	iiij ^s
^a (West) for a tenement some tyme beinge Hawkes ⁵ shope	vj ^s viij ^d
^a (Ric bayly) for a tenement by yer	vj ^s viij ^d
thomas buntyng for a tenement by yer	vj ^s viij ^d
[blank] Jones wyddow ⁶ for a tenement by yer	vj ^s viij ^d
Summa x ⁱⁱ viij ^s iiiij ^d	

^a See note on p. 109.

¹ This is the house of the late Alderman Dickson *alias* Waterman, glover and whittawer, wherein John Shakespeare perhaps served his apprenticeship. Introduction, p. xxxiii.

² Introduction, pp. xviii, xxi.

³ See note 6 on p. 113.

⁴ The Shambles were in Middle Row, where Alderman Rafe Cawdrey, a butcher, as well as host of the Angel, had a shop. The Chere or Chure was a narrow way through Middle Row, connecting Back with Fore Bridge Street, and opposite to the passage which ran from Bridge Street to High Street. There was a Chure in Alcester and other towns. ⁵ James Hawicke: see p. 7.

⁶ Giles Jones was a tenant of the Corporation in 1553. See p. 7.

Shottrey burgetowne & dodwell.

Richard pace for a mece w ^t thappurtenaunces ² in shottery	xx ^s
John Cawdrey de lodyngton for a clos in dodwell	iiij ^s
Richard Hyll for a mece cum pertinenciis in burgetowne	xiiij ^s iiiij ^d
Elsabethe marten for a clos in burgetoune	vij ^s
Summa ij ^l iiij ^s iiij ^d	
Summa totalis l ^l vij ^d ob	

mukhylls

m ^r geffereys for y ^e mukhyll at shypstret end by yer	ij ^s viij ^d
Chamburs mukhyll ³ by yer	xx ^d
John page for a mukhyll in roder stret by yer	viij ^d
ffrauncis Harbadge for a mukhyll ⁴	xij ^d
Summa vj ^s	
Summa totalis l ^l vs j ^d ob	

[Added on flap of roll :—] M^r John Brounswerd geveth xij^d
towarde y^e makynge of y^e schole.⁵

[*Misc. Records, 14.*]

4 May, 1561.

[COURT ROLL.]

⁶ Stratford } The Court ther holdon quarto die Maij anno domine
Burgus } regine tercio &c.

m' Willm trout (ijj^s iiij^d) chrysrouer smythe (ijj^s iiij^d) Thomas
dycson (xij^d) willm flechar (vij^d) thomas dege (iiij^d) artor
boys (xvj^d) thomas rychardsone (jj^s) Robert archard (iiij^d)
mawd harbadge vidua (ijj^s iiij^d) John gorman (xx^d) John
Jamson (ijj^s iiij^d) george banester (vj^d) Roger banester
(vj^d) Humfrey ranoldes (xij^d) willm hyll (vij^d) for syl-
lynge aell & havynge & kepynge gamynge contrary to
thordor of the court they stand amerced

¹ Bridge Town.

² A messuage with the appurtenances.

³ In Henley Street.

⁴ At Bridge Street end. See Rent Roll of 10 March, 1574.

⁵ See Introduction, p. lvi.

⁶ In the handwriting of Richard Symons.

- m'* m^r bely that now ys¹ Roger sadler (ij^s iiij^d) Richard Aunge (xx^d) John Aunge (ij^d) John Cartwryght (xij^d) Comen bacares & for brekyng thassyez they stand amerced &c.
- m'* Anthony bocher (iiij^d) for Syllynge messell² porke he Standes amerced
- m'* Roger grene (iiij^d) for syllynge candylles lakyng wyght he standes a merced
- m'* Robert mylles (xij^d) & m^r W^m whatley (iiij^d) for not sending for the tasteres befor they tunyd furthe the aell they stand amerced
- m'* Robert perot (vj^s viij^d) for makynge & syllynge vn wholsum aell he standes a merced
- m'* Roger grene (vijj^d) for makynge vn wholsum aell he standes amerced
- m'* John Icheuer (ij^s) for makynge a fray³ vpon brodshaw the Curryar he standes amerced
- m'* thomas dycson (vijj^d) for makynge a fray vpon Richard hys brother he standes amerced
- m'* John lane (xij^d) for makynge a fray vpon tybbyns of langley he standes a merced
- m'* Thomas dycson (vj^d) for makynge a fray vpon edward walford⁴ he standes amerced
- m'* John grannam⁵ (xx^d) for makynge a fray & drawynge blood vpon thomas beytes he standes a merced
- m'* thomas beytes (xx^d) for makynge a fray & drawynge blood vpon a straunge man of byrmycham he standes a merced
- m'* thomas knyght the younger (xx^d) for makynge a fray & drawynge blood vpon a straunger in edmund barrettes hous he standes amerced
- m'* master bely (xij^d) gylbart bradley (xij^d) W^m smythe habardasshar (xij^d) W^m perrot (xij^d) Willm Hyll (xij^d)

¹ Master Baily that now is, Roger Sadler.

² Measled, i.e. diseased.

³ For these assaults see Introduction, p. xlviif f.

⁴ His brother-in-law.

⁵ A kinsman of the new vicar, John Bretchgirdle.

W^m brookes (xij^d) Richard lane (xij^d) for havynge & Sufferynge mukhylls befor ther Soylles they standes a merced

m' W^m rausson (xij^d) {gryffyn ap Robert} chrysrouer smythe (xij^d) humfrey plimley (xij^d) for leyenge muke at Ric. lane barne door in swyn stret they stand amerced

m' Ric. Wagstaf (xij^d) Robert mylles (xij^d) Ric. sponer (xij^d) edward younge (xij^d) John bell (xij^d) for leyenge muke at tynkar lane end next to the chappell they stand amerced

m' {byllentone John stanley for leyeng muk at Bradleys mukhyll they stand amerced}

m' Richard court (xij^d) for leyenge muke at W^m Whoodes¹ barne in Henley stret he standes amerced

m' Robert mylles (xij^d) & Robert salesberry (xij^d) for gryndyng other mens malt & they beyng commen bruare they stand amerced

m' steven the thatchar (iiij^d) for havynge & sufferynge yn makes in hys hous he standes a merced

m' Robert Salesberry (xx^d) thomas hunt (viij^d) chrysrouer smyth (viij^d) John bell (iiij^d) for havynge ther shyp fedynge in the bancroft they stand amerced

m' Richard charnoke (xx^d) for not makynge a yat on the bac syd of coryares hous he standes amerced²

m' thomas dycson (xij^d) m^r smythe (ij^s) Humfrey plimley (xij^d) chrysrouer smythe (xij^d) John bell (xij^d) thomas rogeres (xij^d) John wheler (xij^d) for havynge ther ban dogges un moseyled & bytches in sawt thei stand amerced

m' John Sadler mylner (xvj^d) for wynnowynge his peys in ded lone & leavyng the chaf in the lone & bryngynge his swyne into the Same lane & not Scowryng the dyche ther he standes amerced

peyne y^t euery tenaunt havynge men chyldren beyng xij yeres of age & vpward & not sworn³ y^t ther parent or masteres

¹ William Smith *alias* Hood, the haberdasher in Henley Street.

² See ante, p. 107.

³ Not having taken the oath of fealty to the Lord of the Manor.

do present the person of euery suche manchyld at the next let sub pene vjs viij^d

peyne y^t euery bruar bringinge aell to syll shall syll from hensfurthe new aell vnder the hersyve for ij^d ob vnder the hersyve xiij galons to the dossen good & wholsum, clere & Staell for iij^d, ij galons Small aell for a penny Sub pene xl^s for every defalt

peyne y^t euery bacar y^t shall bake bred to Syll shall syll ij loves for a penny j lof for ij^d & y^t they kep thassyez & bultyd w^t a lauffull bulter

m' thomas caell (iiij^d) for settynge hys cart in the Stret contrary to thordor of the Court he standes amerced Provyded always y^t yt shall & may be lauffull at all tyme hear after for m^r belyf & m^r alderman at eny tyme hear after as he shall se Cawse as the price of malt shall ryez & fall to let Call xiij men & to Seas y^e priseys of aell at ther disressyones

peyne & that thomas hunt of Studley do suffycently make hys mound betwene hys ground in roder stret & the quenez ground now in the tenure of Henry bedell befor wytsonday² Sub pene vjs viij^d

peyne y^t no ynhabytant w^tin the burro of stratford have or suffur eny vnlauffull gamnynge in hys or ther housses contrary to the statut provyded for y^e Same Sub pene xx^s

peyne y^t no tenaunt have — — — or suffer to be made vppon hys or ther soylles in the stretes eny mukhyll but only thos that ar appwyntyd by thordor of y^e xiij men Sub pene vjs viij^d

peyne y^t no person nor ther family ley from hensfurthe eny muke furthe of ther ounе housses in the stretes but vppon y^e commen mukhylls Sub pene iijs iiiij^d tocienс quociens

peyne y^t euery commen bruar befor they twne furthe ther aell do send for y^e tasteres to a say thereof vnder peyne xx^s

peyne y^t no bruar havynge horsmyll of his owne do grynd eny other mens malt but only his ounе malt vnder peyne xl^s tocienс quociens

peyne y^t no persone revyell eny offecer Sub pene xx^s
 peyne y^t no tenaunt receve eny ynmake w^tout Specyall lysaunce
 of m^r belyf & thalderman or on of them vnder peyne xx^s
 peyne y^t euery tenant now havynge eny Inmake do put them
 away w^tin xiiij days next after this court vnder peyne xx^s
 peyne y^t non receive & kep in ther houses eny [s]traunger
 woman beynge w^t chyld ther to be brought to bed of
 chyld peyne xx^s
 peyne y^t euery tenant kep cleane ther gutteres & dyches as well
 in the stretes as in ded lone vnder peyne vj^s viij^d
 peyne y^t no person havynge goynge fedynge & pasturynge in
 the bancroft eny shyp not ouer & above iij owres in a day
 vnder peyne vj^s viij^d
 peyne y^t Ric. charnoke of welcum do let make & set vp a yat
 on the bake syd of the curryares hous in gylpyttes w^tin
 iij wyx next after this court vnder peyne vj^s viij^d
 peyne y^t no tenaunt suffer ther bandoges nor bytchys beynge in
 sawt to go at lardge on moseled vnder peyne vj^s viij^d
 {peyne y^t euery tenaunt in swynstret & ded lane do scourre ther
 dyches & gutteres over & ageynst ther Soylles befor holy
 thursday & so from thensfurth to kep them cleane from
 tyme to tyme vnder peyne vj^s viij^d}
 peyne y^t no ynhabytant from hensfurth have eny shyp goynge
 fedynge or pasturynge in bancroft not ouer & above ij
 oures vnder peyne vj^s viij^d tocions quociens

2	3	ffur' ¹	Henry bydyll
			lews ap willm
4	5		W ^m mynske
			John shakspeyr

} Jur.

[*Misc. Doc. vii. 56.*]

¹ *Furatores*, affeerors.

² Here the mark of Lewes ap Williams, a church gable?

³ Here the mark of Henry Biddle, a cross with four equal arms.

⁴ Here the mark of William Minske, a Latin cross.

⁵ Here the mark of John Shakespeare, a pair of glover's compasses.

24 January, 156 $\frac{2}{3}$

[ACCOUNT OF JOHN TAYLOR AND JOHN SHAKESPEARE, MADE BY JOHN TAYLOR.]

Thaccomt¹ of John tayler² & John Shakspeyr³ Chambur-lens made the xxiiijth day of Januarey in the vth yere of the reigne of [our] Souereigne lady elyzabethe by the grace of god of englond fraunce & Irelond quene defendor of the feithe &c. for one Wholl yer endynge at the feest of Sent mychell tharch-aungell now last past.⁴

Money Received

In primis the Sum of the rentroull	l <i>ii</i> iiijs ^s x <i>d</i> ob
Item receved of m ^r Sadler ⁵	xiijs ^s viij <i>d</i>
Item receved of Humfrey ranoldes for an elme	ijs ^s
Item rec. for a mukhyll ⁶ in chappell	ij <i>s</i> xv <i>d</i>
Item rec. of thomas sharp rent for hys hous	vij <i>s</i>
Item rec. of the new barbur for hys fredum ⁷	ij <i>s</i> iiijs ^s

Rentes rec. for chamburs in chappell⁸

In primis of mother margret ⁹ for hir Chambur	ij <i>s</i> iiijs ^s
Item rec. of amblet ¹⁰ for hys Chambur	ij <i>s</i> v <i>d</i>
Item rec. of london ¹¹ for hys chambur	x <i>d</i>

¹ This document, the official copy of the Account, is in the handwriting of Richard Symons, the Town Clerk.

² John Taylor, the dyer of Sheep Street.

³ The Poet's father. Symons always spells the name in this way.

⁴ The Chamberlains before the reign of Elizabeth (see 29 Sept., 1558, p. 85) presented their Account at Michaelmas. In her reign the old formula was kept, but the Account was presented in the New Year, and often contained small entries up to date.

⁵ Alderman Roger Sadler, the baker, of High Street.

⁶ Apparently an additional refuse heap made in the Gild Chapel grounds.

⁷ A barber who has finished his apprenticeship and joined his Craft or Company.

⁸ Chambers in the Almshouse or within the Chapel grounds.

⁹ She used to sweep before the Chapel and receive a small payment quarterly.

¹⁰ Hamlet (variously spelt Amblet, Hamolet, Hamnet) was not an uncommon name in Stratford.

¹¹ Roger London: see next Account, 10 Jan., 1564, p. 127.

CHAMBERLAINS' ACCOUNT, 24 JAN., 156² 12*i*

Item rec. of Hall ¹ for hys Chambur	iiij ^d
Item rec. of Sponer ²	xv ^d
Sum received lii ^{li} vii ^d ob	
<i>Money payd vppon receyt</i>	
In primis to Richard godwyn ³ for hangynge ye bell & naylles	ij ^s vij ^d
Item payd for naylles for the bell whell	iiiij ^d
Item payd to Hughe Carpenter for hangynge the gret bell & makyng the whell	xx ^d
Item payd for cord & a bason rop for ye lyttyll bell	x ^d
Item payd to ye smythe of lodyngton ⁴ for ij keys & naylles	ix ^d
Item payd for half a hyed of Whytlether ⁵	ij ^s viij ^d
Item payd for reparynge of mother gyles ⁶ hous lyme & sond	xvj ^d
Item payd to the tyler	xvj ^d
Item payd for a bell rop for the gret bell	v ^s iiij ^d
Item payd Ric. Annys ⁷ for tymbur for Raf Downeys hous	viiij ^d
Item payd for a stapull for the Chappell doore	iiij ^d
Item payd for reparacyons of a shop behynd the shombulles	iiij ^s
Item for makyng ij bawdryx	xij ^d
Item for a nother stapull to the Chappell doore	ij ^d
Item to Castell for tymbur	iiij ^s
Item to godwyn ³ for settynge the Clokkes	xvj ^s
Item payd to the Steward ⁸	iiij ^{li} vj ^s viij ^d
Item payd to Hygges ⁹	iiij ^{li}
Item payd to William smythe Corveser for tymbur	vj ^s viij ^d

¹ Robert Hall, a mason. See below, p. 122.

² Richard Spooner was a painter, living in Corn Street *alias* Chapel Street.

³ Keeper of the Clocks and Bells.

⁴ Luddington, two miles S.W. of Stratford, is in the parish of Stratford.

⁵ For the baldricks (or belts) of the bell, mentioned later.

⁶ Burial Register: '1571 Feb. 10 Old Mother Gyles.' Her house was in Bridge Street.

⁷ Variously spelt Hannys, Hannes, Hanns, Hands.

⁸ William Court, or a' Court, of Alveston parish.

⁹ William Gilbert *alias* Higges was usher at the School under William Smart. Presumably he had held this post since his marriage in June, 1560, to Agnes

Item payd to Symons ¹ hys fee	x ^s
Item payd rent for the vicars ² hous	xxiiij ^s
Item payd to the sergentes ³ for dunghyll	xvj ^d
Item payd to ye Scoll Master ⁴	xvj ^{li}
Item payd to the almysfolk	xx ^{li} xvj ^s
Item payd for Cheff rent	iiijs vj ^d
Item payd to hall ⁵ for settynge a ston at the Chappell doore	vj ^d

Alowaunces⁶

In primis the Chamburlens fee	xx ^s
Item for burfordes hous ⁷	xvj ^s
Item for m ^r Combes iij tenementes	xiijs ^s iiijd ^d
Item for the cheere in the shombulles	ijd ^d
Item chef rent for John sadler ⁸ hous	xijd ^d
Item for a shop in the Shombulles	vjs vijjd ^d

Sum payd & } { xlxiij^{li} vjs iiij^d } Ij^{li} xv^s x^d ⁹
alowaunces }

Sic remanet in the handes }
of the chamburlens they } { vs^s } iiijs ix^d ob
beyng in det.

[*Endorsed* :—] John Taylor & John Shakspeyr chamburlens
accomp^t pro vno anno fact' anno Elyzabeth^e
regine quinto.¹⁰

[*Misc. Doc. iii. 21.*]

(Annes) Lynscombe, daughter of the late Roger Lynscombe, of Henley Street (see Rent Roll of 10 Jan., 1561, p. 113). He received a salary of £4 a year. See the agreement with Smart, 1 Jan., 1555, p. 35. This year, 1563, William Allen became usher.

¹ His salary as Town Clerk. His post brought him work and perquisites of various kinds.

² The Corporation paid this rent to Master Woodward for the Vicar's House.

³ The Serjeants at the Mace were Richard Sharpe and William Butler.

⁴ William Smart. ⁵ Robert Hall, the mason.

⁶ 'Allowances', properly deductions or withholdings of payment due to the Chamberlains, bad or unpaid debts; but the term was also used for payments by the Chamberlains. ⁷ Richard Burford's house in Sheep Street.

⁸ The miller and Capital Burgess, son of Alderman Roger Sadler, the baker.

⁹ The totals have been revised.

¹⁰ At the back of the document is Taylor's cross as acting Chamberlain. Two other marks are attached to names unfortunately erased or torn.

6 October 1563

[MEETING OF THE CORPORATION.]

STRATFORD.

Drdores made at the hall ther holden the Syxt day of october in the Fyvythe yer of y^e reigne of our Souereigne lady elyzabethe by y^e grace of god Queene of englond Fraunce & Irelond defendor of y^e feithe &c in the tyme of Humfrey plymley then beyng belyf of y^e burrough of Stratford & adrean quyny Capytall alderman

The eleccyon of the belyf & capytall alderman. At the sayd hall george Whatley ys appwynty[d] & Sworon belyf for y^e yer now next folloynge & Roger Sadler Capytall alderman & Justices of y^e peac within y^e sayd burrough

The Elec- cyon of the cham- burlens and other officers.	William tyler & William Smythe haberdashar } et jur. (chaumburlens) Thomas Barbur & John paedge, aelltasteres } jur. (ale tasteres) John Icheuar Henry fetherston & } letherseallares & Jur. John enysdaell Richard Sharp & } cergeauntes & jur. William Butlar
---	---

Repar-
ing of y^e assent of y^e belyf aldermen & capytall burgesez y^t
pave-
mentes. Drdores—yt ys now ordeyned by the wholl
euery Inhabitant within y^e burro of Stratford on
thyssyed & before the feest of y^e natuyuty of Sent John
baptyst now next Comyng shall well & Suffycently repar
& pave the pavements afor ther soylles vnder the peyne
of forfetur to y^e vse of y^e chambur of Stratford euery

¹ This document is in the handwriting of Richard Symons, save the interpolated matter in half-round parentheses. A rough draft in another hand, considerably revised, is in Misc. Doc. ix. 20.

² Nominally Chamberlains: John Shakespeare acted for them.

person offendyng vjs viij^d to be levyed vpon ther goodes & cattall (the places that haue bin accustomed to be pavid ys to be vnderstand by this order.)

Wryttes & Sewttes. **Item** yt ys ordeyned y^t no person nor persons inhabetyng withe in the sayd burro fromhensfurth do vex or Sew eny other of the inhabytantes owt of y^e same burro by the way of eny manner of Wryttes or other Suettes by hym or them commencyd or done, except yt be for suche accyons or suites as cannot be tryed withein y^e Court of record of y^e sayd burro without lycenc of y^e belyf & capytall Alderman vnder y^e peyne of forfeiture of Forty shillynges for euery defalt to y^e vse of the chambur aforsayd & to be levyed vt Supra.

Donghylles. **Item** y^t no manner of person nor persons by hym or them selves or eny other of or [sic] ther famly do at eny tyme hearafter ley eny donge or muck in the Stretes or lanes but only within [their] seuerall groundes or vpon the Comen dunghylles appwyntyd vnder y^e peyne to forfeit for euery defalt iijs iiijd & the tenant y^t rentythe the ground for sufferyng dung or muk to be leyd vpon hys ground contrary to y^e ordor prescribid euery Suche tenant to forfeit for hys Sufferyng muk to be so leyd x^s euery suche forfettes to be to y^e vse of y^e Chambur of Stratford—theis donghylles beyng Comen donghylles appwyntyd hearafter namyd y^t ys to say one at y^e nether end of Shypstret—one other at y^e nether end of Burge stret—one other in the gravell pyttes in tyncar stret^x—one other at thupper end of grene hill stret by nycholas lanes hedge—in Henley stret one other donghyll in y^e old place accustomyd—one other in churche lane benethe John Sadlers barn & all y^e same Sayd comen dunghylles to be ryd twyez in y^e yere y^t ys to say befor y^e feest of pentycost & neer & about mychelmas vnder y^e peyn xx^s to y^e vse aforsayd.

Item yt ys ordeyned y^t no person nor persones

* Tinkers' Street, now Scholars' Lane.

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Revy-
lyng of
offe-
ceres.

ynhabtyng within ye burro of Stratford hensfurthe shall revyell or myssay the belyf aldermen capytall burgesez chamburlens nor no other offecer nor offeceres of ye said burro in peyn of forfetur xx^s for euery defalt to be levyed vpon hys goodes or cattall so offendyng to ye vse, vt Supra, yf he yt so offendythe have not to pay ye said forfetur then he to be prisoned¹ by the Space of thre days & thre nyghtes &c.

Recev-
yng of
yn-
makes.

Item yt no ynhabytant or house holder hensforth dwellyng within ye burro of Stratford Receve into eny part of hys hous eny ynmakē or strange woman beyng with chyld to be brought to bed & delyuered in ye same hous without lycence of ye belyf in peyne of forfetur of xx^s for euery defalt & to be levyed, vt supra, & hys body prisoned, vt supra.

Vnlau-
full
games.

Item that no person Suffer eny vnlaufull games to be had or vsed in hys hous vnder the peyn to forfeit for euery defalt xx^s to be levyd vpon hys goodes & cattall to the vse of ye Chambur of Stratford.

Ban-
dogges
&
bytchys.

Item yt ys ordeyned yt no inhabytant in Stratford havyng bandogges do suffer them to go at lardge in the Stretes vnmoselyd—nor bytche goyng a brod when they be proud² vnder the peyn to forfeit for euery defalt xij^d to be levyed, vt Supra.

Empty-
eng of
privyeys
&
beastes
belyez
& other
fylth.

Item yt ys ordeyned yt no person shall ley eny carren or other fylthe in the stretes hye ways nor lanes neer & about the toune nor within the toune to ye noysaunce of ye people nor eny bochar empty eny beastes ballys³ in the stretes nor ley eny beastes pates⁴ in the stretes vnder ye peyne to forfeit for euery defalt vj^s viij^d to be levyed, vt Supra.

Item yt ys ordeyned yt the twoo sergauntes shalbe commen attornes⁵ in the Court of record to be holden

¹ Misc. Doc. ix. 20 has here (but it is scored through) ‘or stocked openly’.

² proud, in heat.

³ bellies.

⁴ heads.

⁵ Misc. Doc. ix. 20 has here (but it is scored through), ‘But that being adnisiued it weare fytt that the Attorneys should be everye yeare sworne emonghest other officers, as the order of other Cytties and libertie doe requier.’

Attorneys in the Court. within y^e burrough in euery accon y^t shalbe commensyd in y^e Court & y^e said attorney to have for euery accyon folloyd iiij^d a day & not above—provyded y^t & yf eny of the cergeantes do refuez to be attorney y^t then y^e belef to a[d]myt eny other person to be attorney &c.

leyeng in of barley. Item yt ys ordeyned y^t no inhabyter within y^e sayd burro hensfurthe do receive eny barley into hys or hyr hous ther to be leyd vp & after ward fat¹ away vn maltyd in peyn of forfetur for euery defalt xx^s to be levyed, vt supra, without Specyall lycence of y^e belyf & alderman or one of them.

For weyr- yngē of dag- geres. Item yt ys ordeyned y^t no Sengleman beynge a seruant dwellyng within the burro do hensfurthe weyr eny swerd or dagger about hym except when he shall forten to Ryed or go furthe of y^e toune vppon peyn forfetur the same weypon swerd or dagger & hys body to prison.

For tanneres. Item y^t all tanneres y^t shall Sell eny lether or bryng eny lether to put to Saell within y^e sayd burro shall bryng or caus to be brought there lether into y^e {geall} (Courte) Hall² of Stratford ther to be serched & Sealled befor yt be put to saell in peyn of forfetur therof accordynge to a Statut in y^t caesse ordeyned & provyded &c.

[*Council Book A, pp. 130-3.*]

10 January 156³₄

[ACCOUNT OF JOHN TAYLOR AND JOHN SHAKESPEARE,
MADE BY JOHN SHAKESPEARE.]

Anno Domini millesimo Quingentesimo Sexagesimo tertio.

The accompt of John tayler³ & John Shakspeyr⁴ chamburlens made y^e xth day of January in y^e sixt yere of the Reigne of our Souereigne lady elyzabethe by the grace of god quene of englond fraunce & Irelond defendor of y^e feythe &c. vt sequitur⁵

¹ Fetched.

² Misc. Doc. ix. 20 has 'Comon Hall'.

³ The Skinner in Sheep Street.

⁴ The Poet's father.

⁵ This document is in the handwriting of Richard Symons, the Town Clerk. It is the official copy of John Shakespeare's first Account as acting Chamberlain.

Money Receyved

Inprimis Sum of the Roll ¹	l <i>ii</i> v <i>s</i> j <i>d</i> ob.
Item a rest behynd as yt appereth in y ^e last accomp ^t	iii <i>j</i> s ix <i>d</i> ob. ²
Item of thomas barbur for v trees	xx <i>s</i>
Item of Ric. Hyll for ij elmys	v <i>s</i>
Item of Roger london ³	v <i>j</i> s viij <i>d</i>
Item of Richard lyghtfot	v <i>j</i> s viij <i>d</i>
Item of Raf downey fyne for hys hous ⁴	x <i>l</i> <i>s</i>
Item of mother elen for hyr Chambur	ij <i>s</i> v <i>j</i> ^d
Item of Roger london for hys chambur	ij <i>s</i> v <i>j</i> ^d
Item of Richard Sponer for a chambur	viij <i>d</i>
Item of m ^r Vycar ⁵	x <i>l</i> <i>s</i>
Item of medydyne ⁶ wyf comyng into y ^e almyshous	iii <i>j</i> s
Item of thomas sharp rent for hys hous	v <i>j</i> s
Item of John Sadler	iii <i>j</i> ^d
Item of Sponer for y ^e fyne of hous	xx <i>s</i>
Item of george gylbert for ij burdes	xv <i>j</i> ^d
Item of Robert [blank] for hys chambur	iiij <i>s</i> iii <i>j</i> ^d
Sum {payd} } l <i>viiij</i> ⁱⁱ ix <i>s</i> x <i>j</i> ^d	
{& le} Receyvd }	

Money payd vppon Receyt

Inprimis payd ffor fallyng treez	v <i>j</i> ^d
Item payd for makyng yrons for y ^e gret bell	ij <i>s</i>
Item payd for makyng y ^e gret bell clapper	xxv <i>j</i> s viij <i>d</i>
Item payd for a hors lok for y ^e Chappell door	x <i>d</i>
Item payd for fallyng & Squaryng trees	v <i>j</i> s
Item payd for Carryenge chyppes	v <i>j</i> ^d
Item payd to gatclyf for Squaryng iiij treez	iiij <i>s</i> iiij <i>d</i>
Item payd for drawyng tymbur in y ^e old toune	iiij <i>s</i> iiij <i>d</i>
Item payd for a key for y ^e chest	iiij <i>d</i>
Item payd for a rop for y ^e Clok	xij <i>d</i>

¹ Rent Roll: see 10 Jan., 156³, p. 115.² See p. 122.³ For his entry into the Almshouse. He had since died. Burial Register: '1563 May 20 Rogerus London, viduus'.⁴ The price of his lease.⁵ His tithe, due to the Crown. The Vicar was John Bretchgirdle.⁶ William Meriden, buried 27 Dec., 1564.

Item payd to fen for carryeng sond & cley	iijs
Item payd to shakspeyr ¹ for a pece tymbur	iijs
Item payd to hall ² for makynge y ^e vycars chymney	xvij ^s
Item payd to frenche for reparynge y ^e vicars hous	liij ^s iiijd
Item payd to John tylar for tylyng	x ^s
Item payd to marten y ^e Carpenter	v ^s x ^d
Item payd Rent for y ^e vicars hous	xxiiij ^s
Item payd the Scoll m ^r ³	xvj ^{li}
Item payd to Symons hys fee	x ^s
Item payd for Chef rent ⁴	ij ^s v ^d
Item payd to y ^e almysfolk	xxli ^s xvjs
Item payd for Sawyng tymbur	vijjs
Item payd for defasyng ymages in y ^e chappell ⁵	ij ^s
Item payd for mendyng the bell rop	vijjd
Item payd for a quord for y ^e ballans	ij ^d
Item payd for a loke to the hall dore	ij ^s vj ^d
Item payd for carryeng tymber to y ^e pynfold ⁶	vijjd
Item payd for a door &c for y ^e pynfold	ij ^s
Item payd for a belrop	vj ^d
Item payd for kepyng y ^e Clokkes ⁷	xvj ^s
Item payd to alen ⁸ for techyng y ^e chylder	iiijli
Item payd y ^e Steward ⁹ for kepyng y ^e Courtes	iijli vj ^s vijjd
Item payd for reparynge mother gyles ¹⁰ hous	vijjd
Item payd to Robert Hall for woorkyng at y ^e vicars hous	xij ^d
Item payd to y ^e almysfolk for standyng of y ^e pynfold ¹¹	vijjd

¹ John Shakespeare, the maker of the present Account.

² Robert Hall, the mason. The Vicar's chimney was at the Vicar's House in Church Street.

³ William Smart.

⁴ Of *The Cage*.

⁵ This mutilation, carried out under John Shakespeare's auspices as acting Chamberlain, was done with vigour: see Introduction, p. li.

⁶ The Pinfold or Pound was in Tinkers' Lane. It was one of the results of John Shakespeare's energetic Chamberlainship.

⁷ To Richard Godwin.

⁸ The Usher, William Allen, who succeeded William Gilbert: see p. 121, note 9.

⁹ William Court.

¹⁰ See *ante*, p. 121.

¹¹ The Pinfold stood on land that belonged to the Almsfolk, who were paid 8d. a year rent for it.

Alowances

Inprimis for William Smyth Shop	vjs viij ^d
Item for burford hous	xvj ^s
Item for m ^r Combes houses in Churche Street	xij ^s iiij ^d
Item for Chef rent for John Sadler hous	xij ^d
Item for pages muchyll	vij ^d
Item y ^e Chamburlens ffee	xx ^s
Item for y ^e Chappell gardyn half yere rent ¹	xij ^s iiij ^d
Item payd to y ^e sergentes ²	xvj ^d
Item payd for an other od Riconyng ³	ij ^s iij ^d
Sum payd &	
leyd out w ^t	lvij ^{li} iiij ^s iij ^d
the alowances	

Sic Remaynythe v^s ix^d whuche ys delyuered into the handes
of William Tylar & William Smythe newe chamburlens
So y^t they befor namyd John tayler & John Shakspeyr have
made atrw & alawfull accompt for ther tyme beyng Chambur-
lens

v^s ix^d

Et sic quieti sunt ⁴
 Joh'es tayler et}
 Joh'es Shakspeyr}

M^d y^t at this accompt the chardges of y^e Reparacons of the
vycars hous commythe to

vj^{li} xv^s vd⁵

[*Council Book A*, pp. 1-3.]

¹ Another act of John Shakespeare's Chamberlainship was the taking over of the Chapel Garden, recently in the tenure of Richard Lane (see p. 110), for the use of the Corporation. See pp. 130, 138. He had trees felled in and about it (see items above, and in next Account) as well as at the College.

² For a dunghill: see p. 122.

³ 'For another odd reckoning.'

⁴ 'And so are they acquitted.' For *quietus*, see Sonnet 126:
 'Her audit though delayed answered must be,
 And her *quietus* is to render thee.'

And cf. Hamlet, III. i. 75-6:

'When he himself might his *quietus* make
 With a bare bodkin.'

⁵ For the Vicar's House see Introduction, p. 1f.

26 January, 156³₄

[MEMORANDUM OF THE COUNCIL'S INDEBTEDNESS TO LEWES AP WILLIAMS AND JOHN SHAKESPEARE.]

¹ Stratford.

At a Hall ther holden y^e xxvj^t day of Januarie anno predicto
 The Chambur ys ffound in arerage & in dept vnto lewes ap
 William ² xxvj^s viij^d

Item at y^e same hall the Chambur ys found in arrerage & ys
 in det vnto John Shakspeyr xxv^s viij^d

[Council Book A, p. 4.]

30 August, 1564

[MEETING OF THE CORPORATION.]

³ At the Hall holldyn ⁴ in ovre garden ⁵ the 30 daye of avguste
 anno 1564.

Moneye p^d towardes the releffe of the poore ⁶

M ^r Baylye ⁷	iij ^s iiiij ^d	Jhon tayler	viij ^d
M ^r Alderman ⁸	ij ^s viij ^d	Jhon shacksper ¹¹	xij ^d
M ^r Smythe	ij ^s vj ^d	Jhon lewes	viij ^d
M ^r Jefferes	xij ^d	Jhon Sadler	viij ^d
M ^r Cavdre	ij ^s	Jhon hycheuere ¹²	xij ^d
M ^r Adryan quyne	ij ^s vj ^d	W ^m tyller	xij ^d
M ^r Lewes ⁹	ij ^s	W ^m smyth habberdasser	xij ^d
Rycharde Hylle	ij ^s	W ^m smyth corvesar	iiij ^d
Jhon weler	ij ^s vj ^d	Jhon belle	xij ^d
Robert brate	vj ^d	W ^m brace	ij ^s
M ^r paret	ij ^s vj ^d	Thomas dyxvn	viij ^d
M ^r plumley	ij ^s	Thomas dyer	ij ^s
M ^r bott ¹⁰	iiij ^s	Rychard symons ¹³	[blank]

[Council Book A, p. 372.]

¹ In the handwriting of Richard Symons.² Lewes ap Williams was Acting Chamberlain in 1558-9.³ The first minute extant of a Council Meeting not held on a Leet Day. In the handwriting of Symons' deputy.⁴ holden.⁵ See p. 129.⁶ The plague-stricken.⁷ George Whately.⁸ Roger Sadler.⁹ Lewes ap Williams.¹⁰ Of New Place: agent to William Clopton.¹¹ Acting Chamberlain, who would probably have the distribution of the money. His infant son, William, was four months old.¹² Ichiver.¹³ Symons was absent: see Introduction, p. liii.

CORPORATION MEETING, 6 SEPT., 1564 131

6 September, 1564

[MEETING OF THE CORPORATION.]

¹ At the Havlle holdyn the 6 daye of september a° 1564 for eleccyon of the bayle & aldermen & other offycers

Aldermen present :

M^r Baylye ²
 M^r Alderman ³
 M^r Smythe
 M^r Jefferes
 Adryan quyne
 Robart bratt
 Humfreye Plumley

Aldermen absent :

pard' M^r Bott
 M^r Parotte
 present M^r cavdre
 pard' M^r Beddelle
 pard' M^r lewes
 pard' M^r Hylle
 M^r Weler

Burgesys presente :

Jhon tayler
 Jhon shacksper
 W^m tyller
 W^m Smyth Habberdaysser
 Jhon Sadler
 W^m Smyth corvesar
 John Belle

Burgesys Absent :

W^m Brace
 Jhon Hychiuer
 pard' Rycharde Symons ⁴
 Thomas Barber
 Thomas Dyxvn
 present Jhon Lewes

M^d accordyng to the furst order mayde m^r baylye & m^r alderman have agreyd that m^r parrett & m^r Weller to pay xx^s apeyse at ther next comyng to the towne also W^m Brace Jhon Hychiuer thomas barbor Thomas Dyxvn to paye x^s a peyse accordyng to the order mayd in ovr booke.

M^d at the sayme Halle m^r Weller m^r Hylle & m^r Smyth wher ellectyd on to be belye—of the w^h iij persons m^r Weller hade most fovcys ⁵

[*Council Book A*, p. 372.]

¹ The earliest discovered minute of the election of the Bailiff by the Council as such.

² George Whateley.

⁴ Again absent. See 30 August.

³ Roger Sadler.

⁵ Voices, votes.

¹ Money getheryd the 6 of september anno 1564 towards the Releyff of those y^t be vsytyd ²

Mr. Baylye ³	xij ^d	Robarte brate	iiij ^d
Mr Alderman ⁴	xij ^d	Jhon Sadler	vj ^d
Mr Smythe ⁵	xij ^d	Jhon belle	vj ^d
Mr Cavdre	xij ^d	Mr Plumley	xij ^d
Mr quyney	xvij ^d	Jhon tayler	vj ^d
W ^m tyller	xij ^d	Rychard hylle	xij ^d
Jhon shaksper ⁶	vj ^d		xjs iiiij ^d
W ^m Smythe habberdasser	vj ^d		

[*Council Book A*, p. 371.]

20 September, 1564

[MEETING OF THE CORPORATION.]

At the Halle holdyn the 20 daye of September a^o 1564

Aldermen presente : Burgesys presente :

m ^r baylye	Jhon tayler
m ^r alderman	Jhon shackspere
m ^r Jefferes	W ^m tyler
m ^r Cavdre	W ^m Smyth Habberdasser
m ^r quynee	W ^m Smyth coversar
m ^r lewes	Jhon lewes
m ^r hyll	Jhon Sadler
Robert brate	
pard' m ^r plumley	

[*Council Book A*, p. 370.]

27 September, 1564

[MEETING OF THE CORPORATION.]

⁷ Money getheryd the 27 daye of september anno 1564 towards the releveff of the poor ² of ovr towne.

Mr Baylye ³	xij ^d	Jhon shaksper ⁶	vj ^d
Mr Alderman ⁴	xij ^d	Jhon lewes	vj ^d

¹ Symons was again absent. See 30 August. This and the next two minutes are in the same handwriting as the last.

² Visited by the Plague.

³ George Whateley.

⁴ Roger Sadler.

⁵ Alderman Smith, the mercer.

⁶ Acting Chamberlain.

⁷ Symons was absent: see 30 August and 6 September.

CORPORATION MEETING, 27 SEPT., 1564 133

M ^r Smythe	xij ^d	W ^m brayce	vj ^d
M ^r Jefferes	iiij ^d	W ^m Smythe Harberdasser	vj ^d
Adryan quynez	xij ^d	Jhon Sadler	vj ^d
lewes ap william	xij ^d	thomas Dyxon	vj ^d
Rychard Hylle	xij ^d	Jhon Belle	vj ^d
Mr Plumley	xij ^d		xj ^s iiijd
Jhon tayler	vj ^d		

[*Council Book A, p. 371.*]

27 September, 1564

[ORDER OF THE CORPORATION RESPECTING JOHN WHEELER.]

xxvij^{mo} Die Septembris Anno Regni Elizabethe Regine Sex[to]

¹ Hit is this daye ordered by the baliff and hed Alderman with the rest of the Aldermen and Burgeses of the sayd Boroughe of Stretford apon Avon that fforasmuche as John Wheler ² one of the Aldermen of the sayd Boroughe is orderly elected and by the Right honorable the Erle of Warwike ³ prycked to be baliff ⁴ of the said Boroughe for one hole yere foloing after the taking of his othe according to the charter and libertie in that behalff to the sayd borough graunted that he the sayd John shall personally appere at the sayd Boroughe in the Comen Halle there apon ffrydaye next ensuing being the xxixth of this present September by ix of the cloke the same morning there to conferr and consider wth the reste of the maysters and bretheren of the said Boroughe vpon suche matters as be mete for the seruece of the Quenes ma^{tie} and the Comen welthe of the sayd Boroughe touching thoffece of the Baliff vnder the payne of xxli to be levyed to thuse of the chamber of the sayd

¹ In the handwriting of Symons' deputy. Symons was still absent: see lists of attendances above and below.

² John Wheler, yeoman, was John Shakespeare's neighbour in Henley Street. His colleagues were eager that he should be Baillif at this critical time and passed this stern order. He was partly excused, possibly on the understanding that he served next year. See 22 March, 1565, p. 142. Cf. the case of Robert Perrott in the even more critical year 1567.

³ Ambrose Dudley, created Earl of Warwick 26 December, 1561.

⁴ Marked or approved by the Earl in accordance with the terms of the Charter: see p. 4.

Borouge to thende the said Borouge be not dysapointed of an Officer. And ffurther hit is this day ordered by Aucthoryte afforesaid that the said John shall personally apere at the same place apon Wedensday the iijth daye of October next comming by ix of the cloke of the same daye in the morning for the further taking of his othe apon the holy evangelist for the due obseruacon of the sayd Office vnder the Payne of x^{li} to thuse of the said chamber.

the Signmanuell ^x of	Ravff cavdre
George Wheteley high Baliff	Wylliam brace
Roger Sadler hede alderman	Jhon shackspere
wyllm smythe	Thomas dyxon
lewes ap w ^m	Jhon lewes
Adryan quynne	W ^m tyler
vmfrey plymley	Jhon tayler
Wyllm Bott	Jhon belle
Rychard Hylle	Jhon Sadler
Wyllm Smythe	Thomas Dyer

[*Council Book A*, p. 5. See illustration.]

20 October, 1564

[MEETING OF THE CORPORATION.]

Aldermen present the xxth day of october anno regine Elyzabeth sexto

M ^r Hyll balye	xvj ^d	Burgesys present :
M ^r leywys Alderman	xij ^d	John leywys

vj^d

^x Signatures are written by the two William Smiths (the upper one is of the Alderman and mercer, farmer of the College, the lower one of the Principal Burgess, the haberdasher in Henley Street, and probable godfather of William Shakespeare), Humfrey Plumley, William Bott, Richard Hill, and William Brace; marks by George Whateley, Roger Sadler, Adrian Quyny, Lewes ap Williams (a church gable?), Rafe Cawdrey (a gridiron?), John Shakespeare, Thomas Dickson, John Lewis (a circle), William Tyler, John Taylor, John Bell, John Sadler, and Thomas Dyer. The names of the latter are in the deputy's hand. Quyny, we know, could write, and it is likely that others, including John Shakespeare, who used their marks, could also write. It is scarcely possible that a man of his business capacity, for three successive years acting-Chamberlain, was illiterate. Nor does his mark, which resembles closely a Glover's compasses, give the impression of illiterateness.

for the Due observation of the Royal Charter
for the Safety of the said Vessels.
The Commandee of
George Nicholson Esq Esq
Frobisher Frobisher +
John Cowell
John Cowell
John Taylor Esq
John Smith +
John Sturt +
Thomas Dyer
John Frobisher
John Smith
John Cowell Esq

SIGNATURES AND MARKS OF THE BAILIFF
ALDERMEN AND BURGESSES

27 September 1564



Wylliam Smyth	xij ^d	John Shakspere	vijj ^d
John Jeffereys	iiji ^d	John Taylor	vijj ^d
George Whaytley	xij ^d	Wylliam Smyth Haberdassher	vj ^d
Raffe Cawdrey	xij ^d	Wylliam Smyth Cordyner	vj ^d
Adryan Quyney	xij ^d	John Icheuer	
Roger Sadler	xij ^d	Wylliam brace	vijj ^d
Humfrey Plymley	xij ^d	John Bell	vj ^d
John Wheler	xij ^d	Thomas Dyxson	vj ^d
Wylliam Bott	xij ^d	John Sadler	vijj ^d
Aldermen Absent :		Thomas berber	vijj ^d
Robert Peratt		Robert Salysbery	vijj ^d

Robert Brat

Wylliam Tyler

M^d John Weller hath payde alle hys forfytures concernynge
 hys absense from ovr Havlys sense the 6 of september anno
 1564 — x^s

[*Council Book A, p. 370.*]

20 December [1564]

[MEETING OF THE CORPORATION.]

¹ A Halle holden in the Counsell Chamber of stratford vpon Avon the xx^{ti} day of December in the Syxt² yere of the Reigne of oure Souereign lady Elizabeth by the grace of god Quene of englond ffrance & Irelond Defendor of the ffeyth etc. Aldermen beyng then present : Burgesys beyng then present :

Mr Balye ³	John leywys
Mr Alderman ⁴	William Brace
Mr Smyth	Thomas Dyxon
Mr George Whaytley	John Sadler
Mr Cawdrey	Robert Sallesbery
Mr Quyney	John Shaxspere ⁵
Mr Bott	

¹ In the handwriting of another deputy to Symons.

² A slip for *seventh*. On the 20 Dec., 1563, George Whateley was bailiff and Roger Sadler capital alderman, whose names are given in the lists of aldermen present and absent. The seventh year of Elizabeth began on 17 November, 1564.

³ Richard Hill.

⁴ Lewes ap Williams.

⁵ Acting Chamberlain.

Aldermen absent :	Burgesys absent :
pardon' Mr Jeffereys	xij ^d Wylyam Smyth Haberdassher
pardon' Mr Parrett	xij ^d William Smyth Cordyner
pardon' Mr Sadler	xij ^d John Bell
pardon' Mr Plymley	pardon' John Icheuer
pardon' Mr Wheler	xij ^d Thomas Berber
pardon' Mr Bratt	pardon' Richard Symons ^x
pardon' Mr Tyler	xij ^d John Taylor

[*Council Book A, p. 355.*]

16 January, 156⁴₅

[MEETING OF THE CORPORATION.]

Stretford' } A hall holdyn in the Counsell chamber there the xvij
Burgus } of January Anno vij^o Elizabethe Regine &c.

Aldermen beyng then present : Burgesyes beyng then present :

m ^r Baylye ²	Johnes Lewys
m ^r Alderman ³	Willm smyth haberdasshar
m ^r Jeffreys	Willm smythe Corveser
m ^r Whateley	John shakspere ⁴
m ^r Quynye	John Taylar
m ^r Plumley	Thomas Dyxson
m ^r Smythe	Thomas Barbur
ab' m ^r Perrett	John Bell
m ^r Tylar	Robt salisbury
	John Ichyuer

Aldermen Absent :

par' m ^r Cawdrie	Burgesyes absent :
par' m ^r Bott	Willm Brace
par' m ^r Brat	John Sadler
m ^r Whelar	par' Richard Symons ⁵
m ^r Sadlar	

[*Council Book A, p. 356.*]

¹ Still absent: see 27 September.

² Richard Hill.

³ Lewes ap Williams.

⁴ Acting Chamberlain.

⁵ Richard Symons was still absent: see 20 December. This document is in the handwriting of another deputy to Symons.

15 February, 156⁴₅

[MEETING OF THE CORPORATION]

¹ Stratford' } A Halle holdyn in the Counsell Chambur there the
 Burgus } xvth day of february anno septimo regine Elizabeth
 &c.

Aldermen Beyng then present: Burgesys beyng then present:

M ^r Balye	John Tayler
M ^r Alderman	Wyllm Smyth, haberdashier
M ^r George Whaytley	John Shakspere ²
M ^r Quyney	John Bell
M ^r Plymley	Wyllm Brace
M ^r Wheler	Thomas Dyxson
M ^r Bott	Thomas Berber
	Robert Salysbery
	Richard Symons ³

[*Council Book A*, p. 356.]

21 March, 156⁴₅[THE ACCOUNT OF WILLIAM TYLER AND WILLIAM SMITH,
MADE BY JOHN SHAKESPEARE.]

⁴ Stratford' } Thaccompot of William tyler ⁵ & William
 Super aven' } smythe ⁶ chamburlens made by John Shakspeyr
 & John taylor ⁷ xxjt day of marche Anno regine
 vij^{mo} for one Wholl yere endyng at the feest of
 Sent mychell tharchaungell now last past

Money receved

In primis Sum of the rentrowll	l ^{li} v ^s j ^d ob
Item rec. of M ^r Smyth ⁸	i l ^{li} x ^s

¹ In the handwriting of a deputy.

² Acting Chamberlain.

³ Present again after long absence (see p. 130, note 13) but not keeping the minutes.

⁴ This document, the official copy of the Account, is in the handwriting of Richard Symons. The Account was presented late, probably because of the Plague and its complications. John Shakespeare came to the rescue and undertook the duties of the appointed Chamberlains. See Introduction, p. lv.

⁵ A grocer in Sheep Street. He was the nominal acting Chamberlain.

⁶ William Smith, haberdasher, of Henley Street.

⁷ John Shakespeare's old colleague in the Chamberlainship. See p. 120.

⁸ Alderman William Smith, farmer of the College who made three half-yearly payments of £2 10s. for the tithe in this account.

Item rec. in the box ²	v ^s ix ^d
Item rec. more of M ^r Smyth	ij ^{li} x ^s
Item rec. of M ^r quyny ³	vij ^s
Item rec. more of M ^r quyny	vj ^s viij ^d
Item rec. of thomas barbur	xx ^s
Item rec. of Jone Walcar of sullyhull ³	x ^s
Item rec. of M ^r belyf ⁴	xx ^s
Item rec. more of M ^r Smyth	ij ^{li} x ^s
Item rec. of M ^r Walford ⁵	iiij ^{li}
Item rec. of thomas Richardson	v ^s
Item rec. of M ^r Cawdrey for the Hous in Henley stret	xxij ^s iiij ^d
Item rec. of Robert Salysbery	vj ^s viij ^d
Item rec. of M ^r Walford for Wylmecot ⁵	xxvj ^s viij ^d
Item rec. of John Sadler	iiij ^d
Item rec. of basell burdet ⁶	vij ^s
Sum iiij ^{xx} viij ^{li} xiij ^s vj ^d ob. ⁷	

Money payd vppon receyt

In primis payd for John pynmans Cot ⁸	iiij ^s
Item payd for takynge douny y ^e rood loft in y ^e Chapell ⁹	ij ^s
Item the Chardges of y ^e pynfold ¹⁰	xx ^s x ^d
Item payd to M ^r Vicar ¹¹	xl ^s
Item payd to John enysdaell ¹²	vj ^s viij ^d
Item payd to M ^r lewes ¹³	xxvj ^s viij ^d
Item payd to Ric lane ¹⁴	xx ^s

¹ The Chamberlains' Cash Box. The five shillings and ninepence is the balance of last year's Account: see p. 129.

² Alderman Adrian Quyny.

³ Joan Walker, of Solihull, near Birmingham.

⁴ George Whateley was Bailiff 1563-4, and Richard Hill 1564-5.

⁵ Wilmecote tithe. ⁶ A bricklayer and mason in Wood Street.

⁷ Threescore and eight pounds, thirteen shillings, sixpence, *obolus* (halfpenny).

⁸ John Pinman's coat: the old Beadle, who was buried on Christmas Day, 1566.

⁹ Introduction, p. li.

¹⁰ See p. 128.

¹¹ John Bretchgirdle, for his tithe to the Crown.

¹² John Ensdale, one of the Leather-sealers.

¹³ Lewes ap Williams.

¹⁴ For the surrender of the Gild Orchard, then the Garden of the Chamber, see pp. 110, 129.

CHAMBERLAINS' ACCOUNT, 21 MARCH, 156⁴ 139

Item payd to peter Start for Workynge in the chapell makyng y ^e Seattes ¹	vjs
Item payd for kyddynge ² & Carreynge y ^e wood in y ^e Chappell gardyn	vjd
Item for nayelles for y ^e Seattes in y ^e chappell ²	xij ^d
Item for nayelles for Mr Vicars hous ³	xij ^d
Item for workmanshyp in y ^e vycars hous ³	iij ^s
Item payd to peter Stert for iij days Worke in y ^e Chappell ⁴	ijs vjd
Item payd for ten penny ⁵ naylles	ij ^d
Item for half a hundredth vj penny naylles	ijjd
Item for a burd for y ^e work in y ^e Chappell ⁴	vijjd
Item for ij burdes to y ^e same woork ⁴	xvj ^d
Item payd to peter Stert for work in y ^e Chappell ⁴	iiij ^s vjd
Item payd to Mr Vicar ⁶	xxvij ^s
Item payd for a prest burd & hys drynkynghes at the Swan ⁷	xjs vjd
Item payd to Mr lews for Ric. Sharpe ⁸	xxx ^s
Item payd to Mr lews ⁹	xvij ^s
Item payd to bassell ¹⁰ for pwyntyng the Vicars Chymney	xij ^d
Item payd to Mr Woodward for y ^e vicars hous ¹¹	xxxiij ^s
Item for mendynge the gabull ¹² rop for the Cloke	iiij ^d
Item payd to Mr quyny ¹³	x ^s
Item payd for goynge for John tonges brother ¹⁴	ij ^s
Item payd for Whyt lether	ij ^s vjd
Item payd to the preycher ¹⁵	ijli x ^s

¹ Introduction, p. li. ² Tying into faggots. ³ Introduction, p. lvi.

⁴ Alterations and repairs at the Chapel: see p. 128.

⁵ Tenpence a hundred. So sixpence a hundred in the next item.

⁶ John Bretchgirdle.

⁷ A priest who did duty for the Vicar or the Curate. Burd = board. He lodged at the *Swan* in Bridge Street, kept by Thomas Dickson.

⁸ Serjeant-at-the-Mace.

⁹ Lewes ap Williams.

¹⁰ Basil Burdett.

¹¹ See p. 128.

¹² cable.

¹³ The Alderman, Adrian Quyny.

¹⁴ John Tong was a tailor in Sheep Street. His brother seems to have been David Tong, a minister.

¹⁵ Probably David Tong or other temporary assistant of the Vicar.

Item payd to y ^e Same preycher ¹	xx ^s
Item payd to Robert locke ²	vj ^s viij ^d
Item payd to y ^e Joyner for y ^e bell whell	v ^s
Item payd to y ^e sergentes ³	xvj ^d
Item payd to Alen ⁴	iij ^{li}
Item payd to y ^e Scoll master ⁵	xvli
Item payd to Henry fasakerley ⁶	xvj ^s
Item to y ^e Steward ⁷	iij ^{li} vj ^s viij ^d
Item payd to y ^e almysfolke	xxli xvj ^s
Item y ^e Chamburlens fee	xx ^s
Item payd y ^e rent of y ^e pynfold ⁸	viij ^d
Item payd to M ^r vicar ⁹	vj ^s viij ^d
Item payd to Rodman	vj ^s viij ^d
Item payd to Ric. Sharp	v ^s
Item payd to thomas waterman ¹⁰	ijli xij ^s iiiij ^d
Item payd to Ric. Sharp ¹¹	ijli
Item payd to Hygges for viij Wykes wages ¹²	x ^s viij ^d
Item payd to sergeant butler	v ^s
Item payd Symons ¹³ hys fee	x ^s
Item payd to Symons for makyng a rowll ¹⁴	vj ^s viij ^d
<i>Allowances</i>	
In primis for burfordes hous ¹⁵	xvj ^s
for M ^r Combes iij tenementes	xiiij ^s iiiij ^d
for y ^e Cher in shombulles	ij ^d
for pages muckhyll	viij ^d

¹ See note 15, p. 139.

² For cleaning the Town 'harness' or armour, which was hung up in the old Counting House at the Gild Hall.

³ William Butler and Richard Sharpe. For a dunghill: pp. 122, 129.

⁴ The Usher.

⁵ William Smart.

⁶ Keeper of the Clocks and Bells.

⁷ William Court.

⁸ See p. 128, note 11.

⁹ John Bretchgirdle.

¹⁰ Probably for the board and lodging at the *Swan* of an assistant minister.

¹¹ One of the Serjeants of the Mace, who receives the fees for both—20s. each.

¹² Eight weeks' wages at 16d. a week would not be for services as Curate, but probably for temporary help in the School when it was re-opened, say in January, eight weeks before the settlement of the new Master, John Brownsword.

¹³ His fee as Town Clerk: see p. 122.

¹⁴ A roll.

¹⁵ Richard Burford, who had not paid his rent for a house in Sheep Street. He seems often to have been behind.

THE COLLEGE TITHES, 21 MARCH, 156 $\frac{4}{5}$ 141

y^e Chappell gardyn xxvj^s viij^d
Sum ij^{li} xv^{js} x^d
Sum total payd & alowed iij<sup>xxj^{li} ix^s ij^d
Sum Rec. iij^{xxvij^{li} xij^s vj^d ob¹}</sup>

In this accompt the Chambur ys in det to y^e
Chamburlens ij^{li} xv^s vij^d ob
& ouer that of one oblygacyon of thomas spyceres vij^s
So ther ys remaynyng dwe to the Chamburlens² ij^{li} ij^s vij^d ob
[*Council Book A*, pp. 375-9.]

21 March, 156 $\frac{4}{5}$

[MEMORANDUM OF THE ACCOUNT OF ALDERMAN SMITH FOR
THE TITHES.]

³a quyttance m^d y^t m^r smythe⁴ farmor of y^e late Colege of
to be made Stratford y^e xxj^t day of march anno domine regine
vij^o hathe made hys accompt of & for the rentes of
y^e tythes of old stratford busshopstones & welcum
from the begynnynge of hys tyme &c.

³a quyttance & also a quyttance to be made for m^r belyf⁵ yt
to be made now ys & master alderman⁶ for ther tymys beyng
Chamburlens⁷ &c.

[*Council Book A*, p. 382.]

22 March, 156 $\frac{4}{5}$

[MEETING OF THE CORPORATION.]

⁸ Stretforde A Halle holdyn in the Counsell chamber thyr the
Burgus xxij daye of marche Anno vij^o Elizabeth Regine &c.

Aldermen presente : burgesys presente :

m ^r bayllye ⁵	Jhon taylor
m ^r Alderman ⁶	Jhon Shakspere ⁹
m ^r Smythe	W ^m Smythe haberdasser

¹ Three score and eight pounds, thirteen shillings and sixpence *obolus*.

² i. e. due to John Shakespeare: see p. 150.

³ In the handwriting of Richard Symons.

⁴ William Smith, of Old Stratford.

⁵ Richard Hill.

⁶ Lewes ap Williams.

⁷ Lewes ap Williams was Chamberlain from 1557-9, Richard Hill probably from 1559-61.

⁸ In the handwriting of Symons' deputy of Aug. and Sept., 1564: see pp. 130-4.

⁹ Acting Chamberlain.

m ^r Jeffres	W ^m brace
m ^r Whatley	Jhon belle
m ^r parrete	Rycharde Symons
m ^r quynée	Thomas dyxvn
m ^r plumley	Robarte sallysburye
m ^r wheler ¹	

Aldermen absente :

m^r Cavdre
m^r [blank]

² Rec. of m^r Whelar¹ eadem die et anno x^{li} & therof was geven agein by m^r belyf xxx^s & at the graunt of m^r belyf³ & master alderman⁴ & other ther brethern out of y^e v^{li} due to the Chamber ij^{li} x^s

[*Council Book A*, p. 357.]

i April, 1565

[AGREEMENT OF THE CORPORATION WITH JOHN BROWNSWORD,
SCHOOLMASTER.]

The first Day of Aprill Anno vij^{mo} E. Regine. A Covenauant had & made the day & yere Above wryttyn Betwene the Bayllyffe of the borouge of Stretforde vpon havon Aldermen & Burgeges there on thone partie And John Brownesworde⁵ scolemaster there of thother partie as herafter followethe

ffyrst the seyid John Brownesworde doth Covenauant to & w'h the seyid Baylliffe & thother aboueseyid That he shall well & Dylegently serue the seyid Bayllie & all other the aboueseyid & the whole inhabitantes of the Bowrrowe abouseid in their ffree scole there as A good & dyligent scolemaster ought to doe ffor the terme of twoe yeres ffrom the date aboueseyid And shall dyligently appley & teache all suche scolers as shall w'in the seyid terme Come to the scole there. Inconsydacyon of whiche his service aforeseyid to be truly done & Accomplysshed as afore ys seyid The seyid Baylliffe

¹ See 27 September, 1564, p. 133.

² This item is in the handwriting of Richard Symons. See p. 149.

³ Richard Hill.

⁴ Lewes ap Williams.

⁵ Introduction, p. lvf. He succeeded William Smart: see 20 Dec., 1554, and 1 Jan., 1555, pp. 33-6.

Aldermen & burgeges Aforeseyid Covenauant for them & their successors Bayllies Aldermen & burgesies after them to Content & pay vnto the seyid John Brownesword the somme of xx^{li} yerely to be payid as ffolloweeth That ys to wytt euery quarter in the yere yerely v^{li} & his dwellyng howse there : Item it is ferther Covenauntyd betwene the seyid parties And the seyid John Brownesworde Covenauntythe to & w^t the seyid Baylliffe & other the aboueseyid that if he the same John shall fortune at thende of the seyid tooe yeres or at any tyme after to myslyke w^t any thynge & mynde to geve ouer & to teache noe more w^tin the seyid Borrowe Then he the same John shall geve the seyid Bayllie & all other the aboueseyid warnyng & after suche warnynge by hym gevyn as above ys seyid shall serue intechynge in the scole there for the space of one quarter of a yere next after suche warnynge gevyn ffrely w^tout takyng any wages for that quarter or els to paye to the Chamberleynes of the seyid Burroughe for the tyme beynge ffyve poundes sterlynge And that at the Choysse & pleasinge of the Bayllye there for the tyme beynge ffor that the have byn at charges in plasyng of hym his wiffe & his goodes.¹

[*Council Book A*, p. 7.]

2 May, 1565

[MEETING OF THE CORPORATION.]

² Stratford' At the Hall ther holdon the Secundum day of may
Burgus anno elizabethe regine vij^o

aldermen present :	burgesez present :
--------------------	--------------------

m ^r belyf ³	John lewes
-----------------------------------	------------

m ^r alderman ⁴	John bell
--------------------------------------	-----------

m ^r quyny	Willm brace
----------------------	-------------

m ^r Sadler	John shakspeyr ⁵
-----------------------	-----------------------------

m ^r Cawdrey	Robert salysberry
------------------------	-------------------

m ^r whelar	Ric. Symons
-----------------------	-------------

	Thomas barbur
--	---------------

[*Council Book A*, p. 357.]

¹ Introduction, p. li.

³ Richard Hill.

² In the handwriting of Richard Symons.

⁴ Lewes ap Williams.

⁵ Acting Chamberlain.

9 May, 1565

[MEETING OF THE CORPORATION.]

¹ At the Hall holdon in the Councell Chambur ye ix^t day of may anno domine regine viij^o

aldermen beyng present :

m^r belyf²
m^r alderman³
m^r smythe
m^r geffereys
m^r Whatley
m^r Cawdrey
m^r adrean⁴
m^r Sadler
m^r plymley
m^r whelar

Burgesez present :
John tayler
John shakspeyr⁶
W^m brace
Robert salysbery
thomas barbur
thomas dycson
Ric. Symones
Willm tyler

[*Council Book A, p. 387.*]

aldermen beyng absent :

Robert perot
Willm bot⁵
Robert brat

Burgesez beyng absent :

John Icheuer
John bell
W^m smythe haburdasshar
W^m smythe Corveser
John lews
John Sadler mylner

9 May, 1565

[WILLIAM BOTT OF NEW PLACE EXPELLED FROM THE COUNCIL.]

⁷ At the hall ther holdon nono die Maij anno d[omine] regine viij^{mo} yt ys agreed by the belyf, head alderman & with the rest of the aldermen & burgesez, that forasmuch as William Bot⁵,

¹ In the handwriting of Richard Symons.

² Richard Hill.

³ Lewes ap Williams.

⁴ Quynny.

⁵ For William Bott see Introduction, pp. liii-lix.

⁶ Acting Chamberlain.

⁷ A draft in the handwriting of Richard Symons.

WILLIAM BOTT EXPELLED, 9 MAY, 1565 145

one of the aldermen, by report of credable persones hath spoken
evelle woordes by¹ M^r Belyf & other, that ther was never
a honest man of the Councell or the body of the corporacyon
of Stratford, whearupon the said Wm. Bot was Send for &
dyd not cum to hys answer, & for that he hathe geven Suche
obprobryous woordes, he is not worthy hensfurthe to be of the
Councell but to be expulsyd of the Councell ; and so he ys
expulsyd to be non of the Company, & to this agreement the
belyf, aldermen & burgesyz hear unto have Subscrybyd ther
names & set ther markes with ther owne handes ; & further
yt ys agreed y^t M^r Alderman² & M^r quyny shall make labur
& make Suet too ye Vrle of Warr. for thobteynyng of Suche
libertyez as the Said lord of Warr. hath with in the burro of
Stratford, & they to be recompencyd for ther paynes so to be
takyn.³

[*Council Book A, p. 385.*]

4 July, 1565

[MEETING OF THE CORPORATION. JOHN SHAKESPEARE
ELECTED AN ALDERMAN.]

⁴ Stratford at the hall ther holden the fourthe day of July anno
elizabethe regine Septimo

Aldermen present :	Burgesez present :
m ^r belyf ⁵	John shakspeyr ⁶
m ^r alderman ²	John taylor
m ^r Smythe	John lewes
m ^r Whatley	John bell
m ^r Cawdrey	Robart Salysberry
m ^r Perot	John Sadler
m ^r quyny	Ric. Symons

¹ Concerning.

² Lewes ap Williams.

³ See payments to Quyny and to John Wheler, who apparently acted instead
of Lewes ap Williams, in the Chamberlains' Account of 10 January, 1568.

⁴ In the handwriting of Richard Symons.

⁵ Richard Hill.

⁶ His name appears, in consequence of his election, in both lists. He was
sworn at the next meeting, 12 September. From this date to 15 Feb., 1566,
he was both Acting Chamberlain and an Alderman.

m ^r Sadler	thomas barbur
m ^r plymley	
Robart brat	
John Whelar	
William tylar ¹	
John shakspeyr ²	
aldermen absent :	Burgesez absent :
m ^r Jeffereys	William brace
{ William tyler ³ }	William Smyth habardasher
	William smyth corveser
	thomas dycson

at thys hall John Shakspeyr}
 ys appwyntyd an alderman³}
 nycolas barnhurst⁴ to be a burges}
 gylbard bradley⁵ to be a burges }

[*Council Book A*, p. 358.]

12 September, 1565

[MEETING OF THE CORPORATION. JOHN SHAKESPEARE
SWORN AN ALDERMAN.]

⁶ Stratford at the hall ther holden in the Councell Chambur the
xij day of September anno elizabethe regine towch-
ynge & concernynge for the eleccyone of the belyf⁷

Aldermen present :	Burgesez present :
m ^r Hyll belyf	John lewes
m ^r lews ap W ^m	John taylor

¹ Apparently he arrived late, and was first put down as absent.

² See note 6, p. 145.

³ It was a large meeting (one Alderman only, John Jeffreys, being absent) at which John Shakespeare was elected by the Aldermen in accordance with the terms of the Charter. He took the place vacated by William Bott: see 9 May.

⁴ The election of this future colleague of John Shakespeare in Puritan recusancy, to be a Principal Burgess, on the day on which John Shakespeare was appointed an Alderman, should be noted.

⁵ John Shakespeare's neighbour in Henley Street, a fellow-craftsman, and probably godfather to his son Gilbert, baptised 13 October, 1566.

⁶ In the handwriting of Richard Symons.

⁷ John Wheler was elected Bailiff.

CORPORATION MEETING, 12 SEPT., 1565 147

m ^r smyth	[Burgesses present :]
m ^r geffereys	John bell
m ^r cawdrey	{ Willm brace}
m ^r perot	W ^m smyth habardashar
m ^r quyny	W ^m smythe Corveser
m ^r plymley	W ^m brace
m ^r wheler	John sadler
John shakspeyr Jur. ¹	Ric. Symons
W ^m tylor Jur. ¹	Robert Salysberry
Aldermen absent :	thomas dycson
m ^r whatley	thomas barbur
m ^r Sadler	ncholas barnehurst Jur. ²
Robert brat	gylbart bradley Jur. ²

[*Council Book A*, p. 359.]

27 [September], 1565

[MEETING OF THE CORPORATION.]

³ Stratford } At the hall ther holdon the xxvij^t day of october⁴
Burgus } anno elizabethe regine Septimo &c.

Aldermen present :	Burgesez present :
m ^r belyf ⁵	John taylor
m ^r alderman ⁶	John Sadler
m ^r Smyth	Robert Salysberry
m ^r Whatley	gylbart bradley
m ^r plymley	thomas barbur
m ^r Whelar ⁷	thomas dycson
m ^r quyny	Ric. Symons

Aldermen abcent :	Burgesez abcent :
Robart perot	Willm brace
m ^r Cawdrey	John lews

¹ *Juratus*—sworn as Alderman: see 4 July, p. 146. Apparently William Tyler was sworn an Alderman the same day.

² Sworn Principal Burgesses.

³ In the handwriting of Richard Symons.

⁴ A slip for September. After 4 October John Wheeler was Bailiff and Humfrey Plymley Head Alderman. *Septimo* is evidently right, for John Shakespeare is among the Aldermen.

⁵ Richard Hill.

⁶ Lewes ap Williams.

⁷ Bailiff elect.

m ^r geffereys	Willm smythe habardasshar
m ^r Sadler	Willm smythe corveser
Robart brat	John bell
Willm tyler	nycholas barnehurst
John Shakspeyr ¹	

[*Council Book A, p. 360.*]

4 October, 1565

[MEETING OF THE CORPORATION.]

²Stretford Ordres made at the Halle there holdyn the iiiijth Day of October in the Sevynthe yere of the Reigne of our Souereigne Lady Elizabeth by the grace of god of Engelonde ffraunce & Irelonde quene defendor of the faythe &c in the tyme of Richard Hill then beyng Baylliffe of the Borrough of Stretford & Lewes ap Willms Capitall Alderman.

At the seyid halle John Whelar ys appoynntid & sworne Baylliffe for the yere now next followynge and Humfrey Plumley Capytall Alderman & Justices of the peasse w'in the seyd Borrough

Willm Brace } et iurati Chamburleynes
Thomas Dyxon }

Nicholes Barneshurst } tasters & iurati
Antony Tanner }

Willm Belle }
John Endesdale } Lether selers & shercopers
Willm smythe³

[*Council Book A, p. 134.*]

15 February, 156⁵₆

[ACCOUNT OF WILLIAM TYLER AND WILLIAM SMITH, MADE BY JOHN SHAKESPEARE.]

Willm tylor & Thaccomp^t of Willm tylor & Willm Smythe W. Smythe } Chamburlens made by John Shakspeyr y^e xv^t chamburlens day of february in y^e eight yere of y^e reigne

¹ Rarely an absentee at this time.

² In the handwriting of a deputy.

³ The corveser.

CHAMBERLAINS' ACCOUNT, 15 FEB., 156⁵ 149

of our Souereigne lady elyzabeth by y^e grace
of god of englond fraunce and Irelond quene
defendor of the feithe &c. for one yere endyng
at the feest of sent mychell tharchaungell now
last past vt sequitur¹

Receyttes

In primis Sum of y ^e rentroll	l ^{li} v ^s j ^d ob.
Item rec. of m ^r Wheler ²	ij ^{li} x ^s
Item rec. of m ^r Smyth ³	v ^{li}
Item rec. y ^e tuthe of wylmecot ⁴	ij ^{li} xiij ^s iiiij ^d
Item rec. of mededyns wyf ⁵	vj ^s viij ^d
Item rec. of margere tompson	vj ^s viij ^d
Item rec. of thomas Richardson	v ^s
Item savyd ⁶ out of y ^e almyshous	ij ^s viij ^d
Item rec. of basell burdet	vij ^s

Summa totalis rec. vj^{xxj^{li}} xvj^s v^d ob.⁷

money payd vpon receyt & alowaunces vt sequetur

In primis for burford hous	xvj ^s
Itm. for m ^r Combes iij tenementes	xiiij ^s iiiij ^d
Itm. for y ^e Chere in shombulles	ij ^d
Itm. for a mukhyll	viij ^d
Itm. for y ^e chappell orchard ⁸	xiiij ^s iiiij ^d

Summa iij^{li} iijs vj^d

money payd vpon receyt.

payd for v ^c tyell ⁹	vij ^s vj ^d
Itm. payd for a thousandd lathe nayles	xxd

¹ This document is the official copy of the Account in the handwriting of Richard Symons. For three years in succession, from Michaelmas, 1562, to Michaelmas, 1565, John Shakespeare had been Acting Chamberlain and had made the Account.

² Alderman John Wheeler, yeoman, of Henley Street, was fined £10 on the 29 September, 1564, for refusing to accept the Bailiffship, half the fine (which was £20) being remitted. Eventually he paid £3 10s. to the Bailiff who took his place (Richard Hill), and £2 10s. to the Chamber, as above. See p. 142.

³ Rent of the tithe of Old Stratford, Bishopton, and Welcombe.

⁴ Of William Walford.

⁵ Meriden's wife.

⁶ Saved—probably by the death of an inmate.

⁷ Six score and one pounds, sixteen shillings, fivepence, *obolus* (halfpenny).

⁸ Now the Council Garden: see pp. 110, 129, 138.

⁹ Five hundred tiles.

Itm. payd for viij crestes & ij gutter tyelles	xvij ^d
Itm. for d. ¹ a thousandd lathe naylles	x ^d
Itm. for jc tyell	xvij ^d
Itm. for naylles	j ^d
Itm. for iijs ^c tyelles	iijs ^s vj ^d
Itm. for a thousandd lathe nayll	xx ^d
Itm. for d. a thousandd lathe naylles	x ^d
Itm. for iijs ^c tyelles	iijs ^s vj ^d
Itm. for d. a thousandd lathe naylles	x ^d
Itm. for jc tylles	xvij ^d
Itm. for iijs ^c tyelles	iijs ^s vj ^d
Itm. for d. a thousandd lathe naylles	x ^d
Itm. for a thousandd lathe naylles	xx ^d
Itm. for d. a thousandd lathe naylles	x ^d
Itm. for xl tyelles	vij ^d
Itm. for viij strykes lyme	iijs ^s
Itm. for d. hundred lathe	ij ^d
Itm. for carrieing iijs lodes tymbur	ij ^s viij ^d
Itm. for ij keys for ye Chappell door	xij ^d
Itm. payd to peter start for work in ye Chapell & ye scoll	xxj ^s
Itm. payd to John tylar for tylng ye scole m ^r hous	ij ^s
Itm. to thomas tylar for tylng ye scole m ^r hous	v ^s
Itm. payd to shakspeyr ² for a rest of old det	ij ^{li} ij ^s vij ^d ob
Itm. payd to m ^r brechegyrdyll ³ for a bord	ij ^s vj ^d
Itm. payd to John tylor	v ^s
Itm. payd for Sand	ij ^s
Itm. payd to rodman ⁴	vj ^s viij ^d
Itm. to ye Vycar ⁵ in ye abcence of ye assystant	vj ^s viij ^d
Itm. payd to m ^r geffereys ⁶	viij ^s

¹ *Dimidium*, Lat., half.² Balance due to Chamberlains (i. e. to John Shakespeare, the Acting Chamberlain) on last year's Account : see p. 141.³ The late Vicar, whose burial is recorded in the *Register*: '1565 June 21. Johannes Bretchgirdle, Vicarius.' He was succeeded by William Smart, B.A., the late Schoolmaster.⁴ The Beadle.⁵ Probably the new Vicar, appointed 3 July, 1565, William Smart.⁶ The Alderman, of Sheep Street. He died this year, in August. See p. 146, note 3.

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Itm. payd to m ^r quyny	xxvij ^s	vij ^d
Itm. payd to m ^r perot	ij ^s	ij ^d
Itm. payd to m ^r brounsword ¹	ij ^s	ij ^d
Itm. to Ric. sharp ²	xxij ^d	
Itm. to grantam ³	x ^s	
Itm. to Ric. sharp hys fee	xx ^s	
Itm. to loke ⁴	iiij ^s	
Itm. for a pece of tymbur	ij ^s	
Itm. for workemanshyp at y ^e burge ⁵	vij ^d	
Itm. payd basell ⁶ for work at y ^e burg	xij ^d	
Itm. for carryag of tymbur to y ^e burg	ij ^d	
Itm. to Ric. Symons	x ^s	
Itm. payd to butlar ⁷	xx ^s	
Itm. payd to m ^r woodward ⁸	xxiiij ^s	
Itm. to peter start for a thell ⁹	xvj ^d	
Itm. payd hygges ¹⁰	x ^s vij ^d	
Itm. payd to the Chamburlens ¹¹	xx ^s	
Itm. payd for kepyng the Clokkes ¹²	xvj ^s	
Itm. for the pynfold	vij ^d	
Itm. payd the stewardes ¹³ fee	ijj ^{li} vj ^s vij ^d	
Itm. payd to the serjeauntes ¹⁴	xvj ^d	
Itm. payd for a bell rop	ij ^s vj ^d	
Itm. payd y ^e scollmaster ¹⁵	xli	
Itm. payd the almysfolk	xxli xvj ^s	
Itm. payd master smart ¹⁶	vj ^{li}	
Itm. payd for iij ^c ¹⁷ lathes	vj ^s vj ^d	
Itm. payd for lyme	xij ^s	

¹ The new Schoolmaster: Introduction, p. lv f.

² Serjeant at the Mace.

³ John Grantham, the kinsman of the late Vicar.

⁴ Robert Locke, for dressing the harness: see p. 140 and Chamberlains' Account for 27 Jan., 1569.⁷⁰

⁵ The Bridge.

⁶ Basil Burdett.

⁷ Serjeant at the Mace.

⁸ The rent of the Vicar's House.

⁹ A board, plank, or joist.

¹⁰ William Gilbert *alias* Higges, apparently for further help in the School.

¹¹ i. e. John Shakespeare, who well earned the fee.

¹² To Henry Fasakerly: see p. 140.

¹³ William a Court.

¹⁴ For a dunghill: p. 140, note 3.

¹⁵ John Brownword.

¹⁶ Late Schoolmaster, now Vicar.

¹⁷ Three hundred laths.

Itm. payd for lyme	xvij ^d
Itm. payd for jc lathes	vj ^d
Itm. payd for Sclat ¹ pyns	xij ^d
Itm. payd for iiij eves polles ²	iiij ^d
Itm. payd the tylar & hys man for xxij days woorke	xxix ^s
Itm. payd to y ^e tylor for ij days worke	iiij ^d
Summa totalis payd iij ^{xxij^{li}} iij ^s viij ^d [ob.]	
Summa totalis receved iij ^{xxij^{li}} xvij ^s v ^d ob	

{In this accompt the Chambur ys in det vnto John
shakspeyr to be payd vnto hym by the next
Chamburlenes}^a vijs iiij^d
(w^{ch} is payd the xijth of Januari A^o 10 Eliz. Regine 15[67])^b
Et sic quieti Sunt Willelmus tylor & pro duobus annis inde
Willelmus smythe^c vltimis preteritis³

At this Sayd accompt William Smyth⁴ farmer of y^e late colegh
of stratford dyssolved hathe made a Just & a trw accompt of
for & concernyng the rentes of the tythes of old stratford
busshopston & welcum & hathe delyuered y^e arrage or ouer
plus of hys rentes (y^t ys to say xl^s) to the handes of William
brace now chamburlen⁵ & he to be Countable therefor in the
next accompt

Et sic quyetus est⁶
Willm Smythe⁷

[*Council Book A, pp. 11-14.*]

^a Scored through when paid. ^b Added later in a different hand.

¹ Slate pins.

² Eaves' poles.

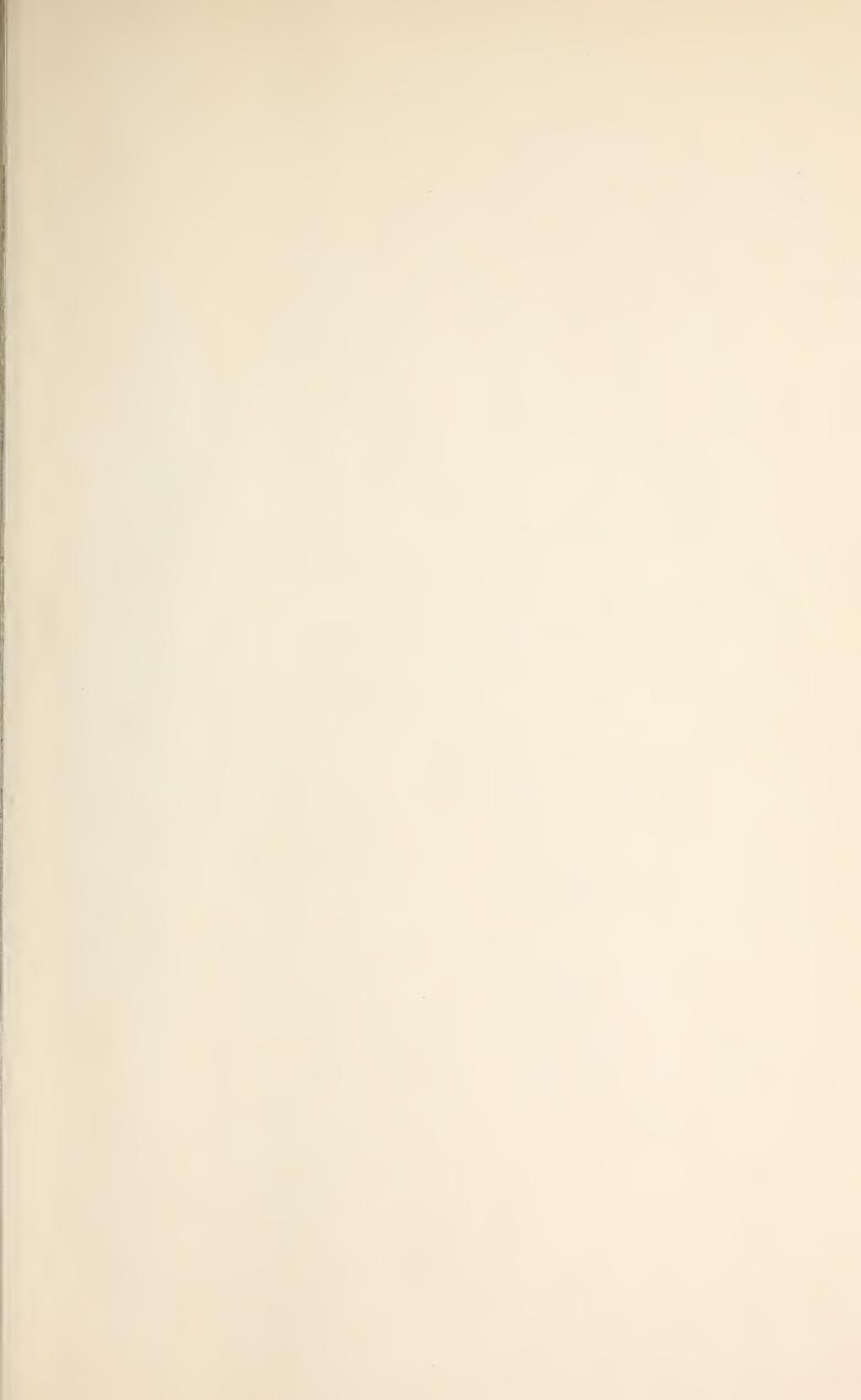
³ For two years then last past.

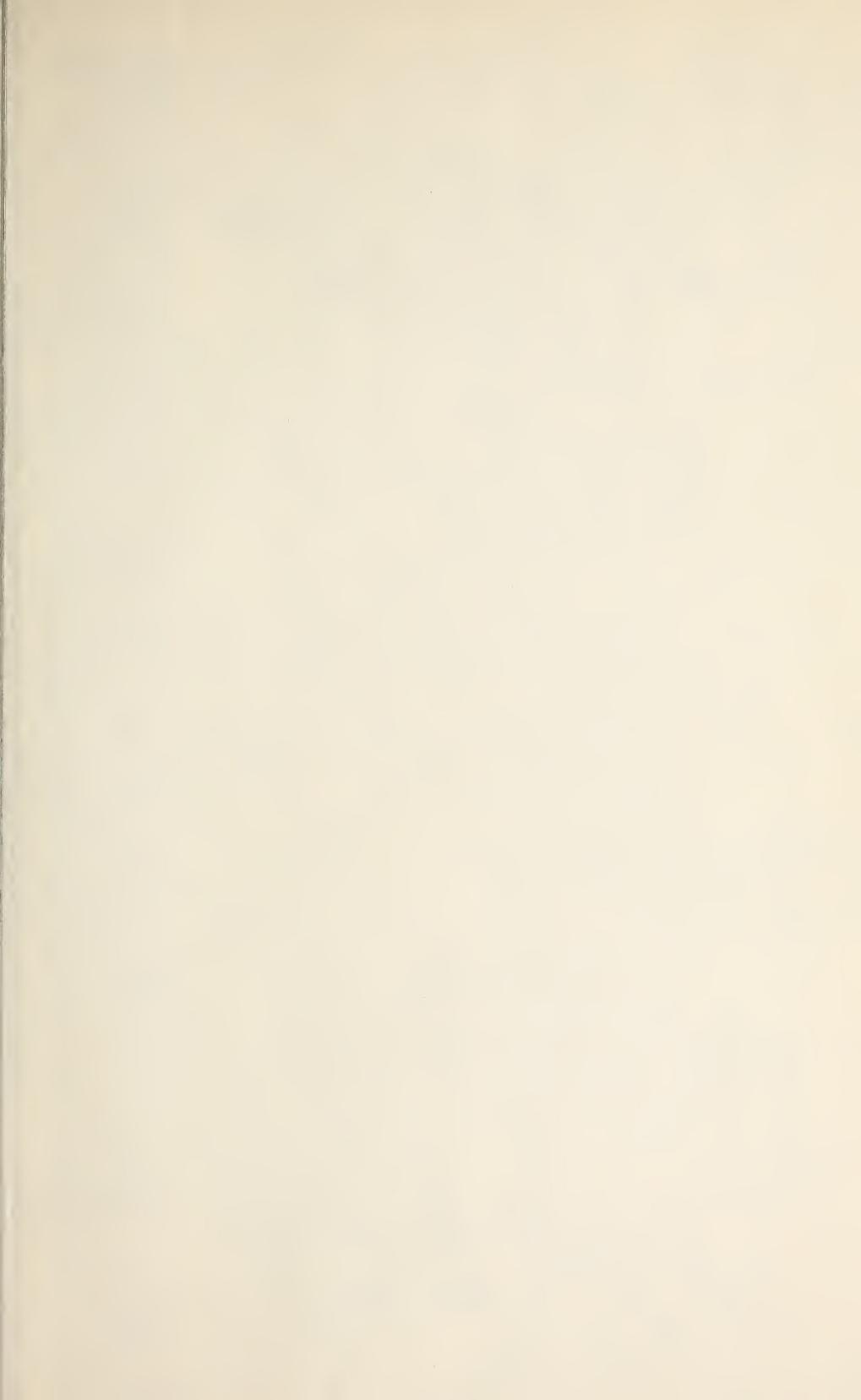
⁴ Alderman Smith, of Old Stratford.

⁵ William Brace, a draper in Corn Street, a Capital Burgess. He is the new Acting Chamberlain, his colleague being Thomas Dickson *alias* Waterman of the *Swan* in Bridge Street.

⁶ For *quietus est*, see p. 129.

⁷ This is the signature of Alderman William Smith, the mercer, farmer of the late College, as stated above. It closely resembles his signature in the illustration facing p. 134.







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